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SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORTS ON PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH

Ben Tre Province

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LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1514 GMT 24 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 24 G.P.A.--The regional forces and guerrillas in Ben Tre Province in the 11 days ending January 10 killed or wounded more than 300 enemy troops including nearly 200 GI's. They shot down or damaged four planes.

On January 4, the regional forces and guerrillas in Giong Trom district intercepted three American companies helilifted to Luong Hoa village, wiping out 80 GI's, and bringing down three of the helicopters.

On January 7, 8, and 10, they intercepted enemy probes in several villages of Mo Cay and Giong Trom districts, killing or wounding 150 U.S. and puppet troops. On the night of January 10, many enemy key organs in Ben Tre town were pounded by P.L.A.F. big guns.

In the period under review, the local people including many relatives of puppet troops struck to demand the return of puppet soldiers to their families and an end to all criminal acts of U.S.-puppet troops.

My Tho Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East 1534 GMT  
24 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 24 GPA--From January 10 to 15, the armed forces and people in My Tho Province sprang simultaneous attacks on many enemy positions, putting out of action more than 700 enemy troops including 334 GI's in terms of units, they completely wiped out one American company and heavily decimated one puppet company. The patriotic forces destroyed seven military vehicles, shot down one helicopter and captured a large quantity of firearms and other military supplies.

On the night of January 10, the armed forces and people in the province simultaneously attacked a series of enemy key strongholds in the provinces capital. The targets included the headquarters of the puppet 7th Division, the military sector, the Hung Vuong military training centre and many other positions around the town including a U.S. basecamp at Binh Duc. This U.S. base was repeatedly shelled by the P.L.A.F. on January 10, 12, and 14. As a result, more than 150 GI's were put out of action and a large quantity of military equipment destroyed or damaged.

In a surprise attack on January 11 on a U.S. cantonment in Hau Thanh village, the regional forces and guerrillas neatly wiped out one American company. In this period, guerrillas and the local people cut off highways 4 and 24 in many places and blew down two bridges paralyzing enemy traffic on both highways.

In close coordination with military attacks, the local population and guerrillas launched many political struggles to smash the enemy's grip, punish enemy cruel agents and seize control of the villages.

## Frenchmen Killed

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1552 GMT 21 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 21 GPA--Puppet troops in the morning of January 11 killed two Frenchmen at a place between a post guarded by Thai mercenaries and a puppet army position on the road from Long Thang to Vung Tau port in Ba Ria Province.

The victims killed by automatic gunfire were identified as Sarrot and Baradiono, owners of the Binh Son rubber plantation. Similar criminal acts had often been taken by puppet troops in an attempt to discredit South Vietnamese patriots.

## Can Tho Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1555 GMT 25 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 25--LPA--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Can Tho Province on January 4 and 13 heavily pounded the Lo Te airfield. In the second attack, the PLA infantry broke through all defences and penetrated into the airfield itself. They destroyed 75 planes and wiped out over 200 GI's or puppet troops, including eight high ranking officers, set ablaze a gasoline and arms storage and damaged several barracks.

The Lo Te airfield is a big one in Can Tho Province belonging to the Air Group 174. This is a starting base for all air attacks and rescues and troop movements in the 4th Corps area. The 4th Corps command's headquarters is situated in Can Tho, the province chosen as experimental plane for the U.S.-puppet's accelerated pacification program.

Although heavily defended, the Lo Te airfield as well as the other ones in the provinces west of Saigon have been continuously attacked by the PLAF.

In 1963, the Lo Te and Tra Noc airfields (Can Tho Province) were struck 14 times and since January 1 1969, four times.

At the beginning of the South Vietnamese people's general offensive and uprising in spring 1963, a company of puppet civil guards at Lo Te airfield mutinied and, together with the PLAF, occupied the whole airfield, killed or wounded almost all U.S. and puppet troops and destroying a great number of planes.

The January 13 attack against the Lo Te airfield was the heaviest since the beginning of this year. It has frightened the U.S.-puppet commands in this region. It was also a thunder blow dealt at the U.S.-puppet forces in the 4th Corps. The attack against Lo Te airfield was also a sharp blow at the enemy's reserve forces in western Kam Bo, not only in mobile means but also in storages, oil and ammunition.

Together with the attacks on Can To, Vi Thanh and Phung Hiep cities and Luong My, Phong Dien and Cai Rang areas, the PLAF's feat at Lo Te was a due punishment to the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

The U.S.-puppets are increasing their repressive acts to push their accelerated pacification program in this region but in no way can they win back the initiative.

The more crimes they commit against the people, the heavier punishments they will receive.

#### Tay Ninh Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1549 GMT 24 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam, January 24 GPA--The regional armed forces and guerrillas of Tay Ninh on January 13 intercepted a puppet Marine battalion in Chau Thanh district, putting out of action 170 enemy. The remnants fled to Tay Ninh. The patriotic fighters captured a large quantity of ammunition and other war material.

#### 3d Regiment Commander Killed

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0559 GMT 26 Jan 69 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 26--Col Michael M. Spark, commander of the 3rd Regiment of the U.S. 3rd Marine Division in South Vietnam, and Lt Col Emil Whisman, battalion commander of the same division, were killed on January 15 when their command helicopter was shot down by P.L.A.F. gunners, about 50 miles southwest of Da Nang city, Western sources reported. Six other GI's on board also perished.

This was the second downed aircraft announced by the U.S. command within 24 hours, the sources added.

#### Phuoc Long Province

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0930 GMT 21 Jan 69 S

[Text] The PLAF on 18 January 1969 intercepted and engaged U.S. troops in two battles northeast of Dong Xoai, Phuoc Long Province. The enemy has admitted that 33 troops of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division were killed or wounded.

On the same day, the PLAF attacked and damaged an enemy landing craft on the Hau Giang River and, later, intercepted a group of patrol boats which came to the rescue of the damaged landing craft and downed one armed UH-1 helicopter near the Can Tho provincial capital, annihilating all five U.S. aggressors aboard. On the night of 17 to 18 January, the Nam Bo PLAF shelled more than 20 enemy positions and bases, including the command posts of the Chau Doc and Go Cong military subsectors, and wrecked one bridge on strategic Highway 4, near the district town of (?Gia Rai), Bac Lieu Province.

On the night of 19 to 20 January, the PLAF launched a series of attacks against many enemy positions and bases from the highlands to the Nam Bo delta, including the enemy's radio communication station in the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot; a command post of the U.S. 173d Airborne Brigade in Iam Dong; the base camp of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division in Lai Khe, Thu Dau Mot Province; a position of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division near Katum, Tay Ninh Province; a position of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division southeast of the Tay Ninh provincial capital; the base camp of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division in Binh Duc, My Tho Province; and the command post of the Loc Ninh military subsector, Binh Long Province.

According to initial enemy admissions, in the attack on the position of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division near Katum, the Americans sustained the highest casualty toll, as compared with the casualties sustained in other attacks, and in the attack on the base camp of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division in Binh Duc, nine helicopters were damaged. This was the fourth time over the past 10 days that the Binh Duc base of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division was attacked by the PLAF.

The enemy also has admitted that on 17 January, one troop-transport helicopter was downed in the highlands and on the morning of 20 January, one reconnaissance helicopter was downed 40 kilometers north of Saigon.

#### Pleiku Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1647 GMT 25 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 25 GPA--Fighting off a raid launched by one regiment and one battalion of puppet troops in the Chu Pong mountain area some 38 kilometers southwest of Pleiku province's capital, the armed forces and people in Gia Lai Province from January 10 inflicted heavy losses on two enemy battalions.

On January 21, the armed forces and people in the province virtually wiped out two companies and a battalion command of U.S. relief forces.

In the southern part of Darlac Province, also on the high plateaux, a PLAF artillery unit composed of women gunners on national minority on January 15 attacked the Bup Rang airfield setting ablaze one reconnaissance plane and two helicopters and damaged another helicopter.

In Can Tho Province, the armed forces and people on January 9 and 10 killed or wounded nearly 150 enemy troops and sank six boats.

In close coordination with armed attacks, the local population staged repeated demonstrations to denounce U.S. puppet crimes and urge return of their relatives drafted into the puppet army.

#### Throughout South

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0100 GMT 19 Jan 69 S

[Text] On 17 January, the Phuoc Long and northern Bien Hao PLAF strongly attacked the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry division near the Be River. According to initial news releases by the enemy, 40 enemy troops were killed or wounded and three others lost.

The Tay Ninh PLAF attacked the U.S. 25th Infantry Division near Boi Loi, less than 70 kilometers to the northwest of Saigon. The enemy admitted that 13 of his men were killed or wounded.

The northern Quang Nam PLAF intercepted and attacked a U.S. Marine unit for 1 day in an area 30 kilometers to the southwest of Da Nang. Although supported by aircraft and cannons, the enemy lost a number of his men.

On the night of 17 to 18 January, the Phuoc Long PLAF used big guns to shell the Be River base of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division. The enemy admitted that this command headquarters was hit by 20 shells of the liberation troops.

The My Tho PLAF used big guns to shell the Dinh Tuong military sector command headquarters in the My Tho municipality and a navy base 10 kilometers away. The enemy admitted that 14 of his men were killed or wounded.

On the morning of 18 January, the Saigon PLAF used mines to blow up the puppet authorities' civil defense headquarters in the fifth precinct.

At 2300 on the night of 17 January, a mine exploded at the U.S. Navy base in Nha Be. The enemy admitted that 12 Americans were killed or wounded.

The enemy also admitted that AC-47 transport aircraft crashed against a mountain on 16 January while flying from Phu Bai to Da Nang and that its remnants were found on 18 January.

#### Blaio Airbase

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1653 GMT 26 Jan 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam January 26 LPA--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Lam Dong Province at midnight on January 19 mounted a surprise attack on the basecamp of a battalion of the U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade near the Blaio airfield.

Initial reports said that in the swift assault, the P.L.A.F. wiped out more than 200 GI's, destroyed 34 military vehicles, and razed six blockhouses.

Right at the first minutes, the liberation fighters overran the command post, wrecked the signal installations and the truck park, and heavily damaged other quarters.

At the same time, P.L.A.F. gunners heavily pounded many key enemy positions in Blaio town.

People in the town and several nearby "strategic hamlets", with the assistance of the patriotic forces, meted out punishment to many enemy cruel agents.

#### More Attacks Reported

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0100 GMT 22 Jan 69 S

[Text] On 20 Jan, the PLAF in Long An used big guns to attack a position of the U.S. 199th Light Infantry Brigade, near Binh Chanh approximately 17 kilometers southwest of Saigon. The enemy admitted that this position was hit by 20 rounds of big guns, that two helicopters were destroyed, and that many Americans were wounded.

The PLAF in Bien Hoa attacked a freighter loaded with U.S. military equipment some 24 kilometers southeast of Saigon. The enemy admitted that this ship was hit by two rounds of big guns of the liberation troops and that it was the seventh ship which was attacked on Long Tau River in the past 20 days.

On the night of 20 to 21 January, the PLAF used grenades to annihilate many U.S. aggressors at two places in Saigon city. One of the places hit was a U.S. troop barracks, approximately 1,500 meters from a U.S. command post.

The PLAF in Ca Mau used big guns to shell a position of a puppet battalion near the Ca Mau provincial capital, and another enemy position in the Ca Mau provincial capital. The enemy admitted that this position of the puppet battalion alone was hit by 80 rounds of the liberation troops' big guns.

The PLAF in Kien Phong, in the Plain of Reeds, intercepted and attacked five river patrol boats of the U.S. aggressors and later attacked helicopters which came to rescue these boats. The enemy admitted that a boat was sunk, an armed helicopter was downed, and 10 Americans were dead or wounded. The enemy also admitted that his battle occurred at a place where 3 days ago [as heard], the liberation troops intercepted and attacked four boats, heavily damaging one and annihilating eight Americans.

The PLAF in Tuyen Duc attacked a U.S. officer's quarters in Dalat city. The enemy admitted that the liberation infantrymen attacked for 20 minutes with small arms and grenades.

On the morning of 21 January, the PLAF in Ba Ria used big guns to attack the Vung Tau harbor. According to initial enemy reports, the U.S. Navy there suffered the heaviest losses, and many Americans were killed or wounded in the regional airfield.

At 0200 on 19 January, the armed forces and people in the My Tho provincial capital simultaneously attacked many military and administrative enemy positions inside and outside the My Tho provincial capital. According to initial reports, in the areas surrounding the My Tho provincial capital, the PLAF shelled many enemy bases and positions, inflicting heavy losses on him. Since the night of 10 and 11 January, this was the third time that PLAF artillery shells repeatedly hit the enemy hideouts in My Tho city, including the puppet division command headquarters, the riverine flotilla base, the U.S. billets, the 71st artillery base, the armored vehicle pool, and the Hung Vuong military training center and the U.S. military base at Binh Duc, placing the enemy in a situation of continuous confusion and alarm.

Along with the shelling of enemy positions around the provincial city, the regional troops and guerrillas in the surrounding villages attacked the bivouacs of troops of the puppet 2nd Battalion, 11th Regiment, 7th Division at a distance of 8 to 10 kilometers northeast of the provincial city. After a 25-minute battle, they inflicted heavy losses on a company of this battalion stationed at Thanh Binh village, routing the remnant troops, seizing full control of the battlefield, and seizing large quantities of weapons and military equipment. Another company of the 2nd Battalion stationed at Long Tri village fled to the Ong Van position. Many other strongholds and posts were simultaneously encircled and attacked by the guerrillas and compatriots. Fighting is going on in the My Tho provincial capital.