ASSESSMENT OF GENERAL OFFENSIVE DISCUSSED

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I - The Great Victories of the Anti-U.S. National Salvation Resistance.

On 30 and 31 January 1968, the South Vietnamese army and people launched a general offensive against the U.S., puppet, and satellite troops and scored great, all-encompassing, and firm victories, inaugurating a new period in the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance.

What is the situation which permitted the South Vietnamese army and people to enter this new period?

Nearly 14 years ago, after peace was restored, the U.S. imperialists kicked out the French colonialists and set up a new colonialist system in South Vietnam using the lackey Ngo Dinh Diem to savagely repress our compatriots in the hope of exterminating the revolutionary forces in South Vietnam and they conspired to move troops into North Vietnam and invade the entire country. These insidious schemes have failed because of the full-blown revolutionary movement of millions of the masses. The victory of the "spontaneous uprising" movement in the Nam Bo Delta between late 1959 and early 1960 shook the rule of the United States and Diem.

Beginning in early 1960, in order to avert defeat, the U.S. imperialists unleashed a "special war" in South Vietnam with 500,000 puppet troops under the command of 30,000 U.S. advisors. But in not too long a period, piece-by-piece the "strategic hamlets were destroyed and the puppet army and puppet regime continued to disintegrate in the face of the attack of the "spontaneous uprising" movement and the guerrilla move-
In mid 1965 the "special war" of the United States was launched.

Unable to bear defeat, the U.S. imperialists impetuously sent U.S. expeditionary troops into South Vietnam and instituted a "special war" there; at the same time, they used their air force and navy to prosecute a war of destruction against North Vietnam.

After defeating the "special war" of the U.S. pirates, our South Vietnamese liberation armed forces and compatriots smashed the first strategic dry season counteroffensive of 200,000 U.S. and satellite troops and just under one-half million puppet troops.

During the winter and spring of 1966 and 1967, with more than 400,000 U.S. troops and more than half a million puppet and satellite troops, the U.S. imperialists launched their second strategic dry season counteroffensive. The brave South Vietnamese army and people attacked and defeated the large military operations of the enemy.

Charging forward under the impetus of victory, the liberation armed forces continuously attacked everywhere and won one victory after another during 1967. The U.S. imperialists mobilized large forces of manpower and materiel in order to prosecute the war but their efforts sustained one humiliating defeat after another. They came up against very enormous military, political, and financial difficulties.

In late 1967, the number of U.S., puppet, and satellite troops in the South Vietnamese theatre had risen to 1,200,000.

Since the enormous defeat of the second strategic dry season counteroffensive the enemy has not launched one notable military operation; instead he has been on the defensive in all theatres of South Vietnam.

The U.S. imperialists have waged a war of destruction against North Vietnam using their air force and navy in the hope of interdicting the assistance from North Vietnam to the South Vietnamese compatriots, sabotaging socialist construction, weakening the anti-U.S. national salvation resolve of the North Vietnamese people, and compelling our government to negotiate with the United States on terms favorable to the United States. The North Vietnamese people resolutely defeated all of the aforementioned goals of the U.S. imperialists, effectively struck back at the enemy air force and navy, and continued to build socialism; at the same time, they have actively assisted the liberation war of the South Vietnamese compatriots.
While the U.S. imperialists are isolated world-wide the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of our people is winning increasingly stronger sympathy, support, and assistance from fraternal socialist countries, from the international communist and worker movement and from progressive people throughout the world, including progressive American people.

Looking at the revolutionary situation in South Vietnam in general, we see that the South Vietnamese army and people occupy a position of victory and have the initiative in all theatres of operation; the enemy is on the defensive strategically. This situation permitted our people to firmly transfer the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance into a new stage.

II—The Early Spring General Offensive of the South Vietnamese Army and People.

Fully cognizant of the aforementioned advantageous situation, the South Vietnamese army and people on 30 and 31 January 1968 simultaneously attacked the enemy in 64 cities, provincial capitals, and municipalities and in many vast rural areas. The general offensive and uprising was powerful and ubiquitous and had a bursting zeal unprecedented in the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance and in our people’s history of struggle against foreign invasion. The only reason it was possible to carry out an uprising on such a vast and powerful scale was that countless numbers of the masses have ardent patriotism and deep hatred for the enemy, are brave, follow the correct political and military lines, have experience in resisting foreign invasion, and are tightly organized.

During the general offensive, the South Vietnamese army and people closely coordinated military assaults with mass uprisings while simultaneously carrying out puppet proselyting and enemy proselyting. This was a high form of development of the combination of political struggle with armed struggle and enemy proselyting which the South Vietnamese army and people have practiced on a large scale since beginning the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance.

The forces which participated in this early spring general offensive and uprising comprised:

—The liberation armed forces of the people led by the National Liberation Front;

—Various organizations within the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam;
--A number of newly established patriotic organizations such as the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces in Saigon and the National, Democratic, and Peace Alliance in Hue;

A number of units of the puppet army which fled to the revolutionary ranks at decisive moments.

According to the appeal of 3 February 1968 of the President of the Central Committee of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam and the announcement of the newly established alliance organizations the general offensive and uprising of the South Vietnamese army and people was designed to annihilate and disintegrate the puppet army, to smash the machinery of the puppet government, to destroy American manpower and collapse the aggressive will of the U.S. pirates, to topple the U.S.-Thieu-Ky regime, to return political power to the hands of the people in the cities and in the countryside, and to carry out the slogans:

--Independence and sovereignty,
--Freedom and democracy,
--Peace and neutrality,
--Food, clothing, and land; building an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous South Vietnam and moving forward toward peace and national reunification.

The general offensive and uprising of the South Vietnamese army and people during early spring brought the war to the cities, provincial capitals, and towns, i.e. into the rear areas and hideouts of the Americans and puppets, propelling the South Vietnamese revolution forward to a new stage, and winning great, all-encompassing, and firm victories. It seriously weakened the forces of the United States and puppets and inflicted a heavy blow on the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists.

1. The South Vietnamese army and people annihilated a large portion of the enemy manpower and inflicted a fatal blow on the apparatus of the puppet regime and puppet army, the point of support of the new colonialism of the U.S. imperialists.

During the limited war in South Vietnam, the U.S. pirates relied on U.S. troops and puppet troops to prosecute the war. The U.S. troops are the main force and also the principal strategic mobile force. The puppet troops both are the force for the pacification and control of the people and are a screen for the U.S. troops. For this very reason, the U.S. pirates have
endeavored to consolidate the puppet army in order to use it as a tool for their aggressive war.

During the recent phase of the general offensive and uprising, U.S. troops, puppet troops, and satellite troops came under attack. Scores of key agencies located right in the U.S. and puppet hideouts were attacked. As of 15 March 1968, the South Vietnamese army and people had killed, wounded, and captured more than 150,000 of the enemy, including more than 45,000 U.S. and satellite troops; more than three regiments, one puppet airborne battle group, more than 60 battalions, and 200 companies were destroyed and heavily worn down.

Seriously destroyed, many U.S. marine battalions are only at half strength. The 173rd airborne brigade lost two-thirds of its strength. Tri-Thien is the place of the greatest concentration of U.S. combat forces; it is also the place where they took the heaviest losses. The puppet army alone lost more than 10,000; if you include desertions and defections, 40% of the strength of the puppet army was eliminated from combat. There was a nationalistic awakening among puppet soldiers: thousands of puppet soldiers and scores of puppet posts and units turned over their weapons and posts to the revolution or mutinied, turning their guns and firing at their tyrannical commanders; many partisan units were formed and admitted to the revolutionary army; a number of patriotic organizations were born from among puppet soldiers who disassociated themselves from the Thieu-Ky puppet government. This situation quickly eroded the support of the United States.

2-The South Vietnamese army and people seriously destroyed the war instruments and logistic installations of the United States and the puppets.

According to the latest figures, since our army and people began the general offensive nearly 2,200 enemy planes have been destroyed and shot down; 35,000 military vehicles, more than 1,750 armored vehicles, 300 artillery pieces, 223 combat vessels, and 300 warehouses of all types were destroyed. The aforementioned losses seriously reduced the combat power of the enemy troops.

3-The South Vietnamese army and people inflicted very heavy blows on the machinery of the puppet government, broke their grip in nearly all rural areas, and enlarged the control of the people.

The decisive offensive of the South Vietnamese army and people paralyzed, confused, disintegrated, and collapsed the Thieu-Ky puppet regime to an important extent. The control
machinery of the puppet regime in most of the townships and hamlets was destroyed. The puppet army at district and township echelon also weakened and disintegrated. In many installations of the puppet army the civilian guard were relieved of their weapons or killed. More than 1,600,000 people seized control in 100 townships and more than 600 villages and hamlets which had just been completely liberated. Many places have been and are now developing revolutionary governments. The liberation of vast rural areas adjoining the cities is of immense strategic importance because:

a). It destroyed the "pacification" plan of the enemy and cut off the source of supply of manpower and materiel for the aggressive war of the U.S. pirates;

b). It destroyed the security perimeter protecting the cities and the network of bases belonging to the enemy;

c). It enlarged the liberated area in South Vietnam, increased the power and prestige of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, and strengthened the rear area of the liberation war of the South Vietnamese people.

4-The South Vietnamese revolution grew by leaps and bounds in every respect, far more than during any previous period, creating a new situation, filled with expectations of victory, for the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance.

The united national front against the United States and Thieu-Ky was enlarged and drew in many additional patriotic organizations and forces. Political parties and various liberation and youth associations belonging to the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam developed rapidly. New forms of the Front (alliances) were established in Saigon and Hue and are attracting patriotic people in the cities to the anti-U.S. national salvation ranks. The political army of the masses, in conjunction with the revolutionary armed forces, bravely struggled against the enemy under many rich forms.

The liberation armed forces progressed rapidly in number and quality. Never before have the armed forces developed with such advantage as now. Thousands of young people in the newly liberated areas enthusiastically rushed forward to join the army to kill the pirates. Self-defense units were established in the cities and guerrilla units were established in the villages and townships surrounding the cities. All three types of troops grew by leaps and bounds. Along with the development in number, the fighting spirit and the technical and tactical level of the liberation armed forces also progressed rapidly. The Liberation Army, which had already fought skillfully in the
mountains and delta, now fought skillfully in the cities too.

With respect to governmental power, people's revolutionary committees were established in many places; of special interest was the birth of the Thua-Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Council which accepted the proud responsibility of a provincial and city people's governmental agency. Many other places (both in the countryside and in the cities) which have not as yet established people's revolutionary councils, instituted control by the people under one form or another.

The South Vietnamese army and people really shattered the two prongs of "search and destroy" and "pacification" of the United States, tightening the encirclement around the enemy in the cities and towns, upsetting the strategic deployment plan of the United States, and forcing them to withdraw troops to defend the cities and their military bases.

The victory of the South Vietnamese army and people during this early spring general offensive and uprising was an all-embracing military, political, and spiritual victory of important strategic significance. This victory caused the balance of forces between our people and the enemy to develop increasingly to our advantage and increasingly to the disadvantage of the U.S. pirates and their clique of henchmen.

With these victories, our army and people inflicted a heavy blow on the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists and struck mortal blows against the United States and the puppets; although these blows did not kill them instantly, the wounds will become deeper each day, making it impossible for them to ever recover.

The anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of our people won extremely great victories but our people still must continue to fight in order to destroy much more of the enemy troop strength and ultimately to collapse the aggressive will of the enemy. The U.S. aggressive elements are very stubborn and are searching for ways to continue to escalate the war in the hope of recovering the positions they have lost. But their position has weakened, their power has declined, and their spirit has tired and flagged. The U.S. imperialists are facing enormous difficulties not only in Vietnam but in the United States and throughout the world. Even if they add 30-odd thousand more troops they will be unable to reverse the situation. The more they pursue their war of aggression the heavier their defeat and difficulties will become.

Why is it that our army and people are winning and will definitely win complete victory? The answer is found in their
possession of all of the following elements of victory:

1-Our people are led by a Marxist-Leninist party and the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam with the very correct anti-U.S. national salvation line and people's war line.

2-Our people are closely united, have a high level of political consciousness, have a long tradition of combatting foreign invasion, and have a large rear area, socialist North Vietnam. The South Vietnamese compatriots have the determination to fight and defeat the invading U.S. pirates. The National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam achieved national unity, ethnic solidarity, religious solidarity, and so forth, severely isolating the U.S. invading elements and the clique of country-selling Vietnamese traitors in order to topple them. The South Vietnamese people developed the tradition of unyieldingness and indomitance of the Vietnamese people, upheld the spirit of not fearing the United States and not fearing hardships and sacrifices, and correctly implemented the teaching of Chairman Ho: "There is nothing more precious than independence and freedom" and "Rather sacrifice everything than submit to the loss of the country and definitely will not submit to slavery!"

3-The South Vietnamese people have a powerful revolutionary armed force comprised of three types of troops: main force, local force, and militia and guerrillas. The armed forces are imbued with the correct anti-U.S. national salvation line and policy embodied in the political program of the front and fully understand the art of people's war and know how to combine armed struggle with political struggle and enemy proselyting and puppet proselyting and to combine expertise in military attacks with mass uprisings. These armed forces have grown continuously in number and quality and are strong enough to destroy every insidious scheme of the U.S. pirates and the lackeys irrespective of the situation.

4-The people throughout our country have had assistance from the socialist camp and from peace-loving and justice-loving people throughout the world, including progressive Americans.

III-The Scheme of the Enemy and the Immediate Task of our Army and People.

The great victory of the South Vietnamese army and people during the first days of spring drove the Americans and the puppets into an extremely difficult situation and, at the same
time, created extremely advantageous conditions for our people to move forward to win new and greater victories.

Confronted with the heavy defeats mentioned above, what will the U.S. imperialists do and what can they do? The basic scheme of the U.S. imperialists is still to look for every way to maintain their new colonialism in South Vietnam and to transform South Vietnam into a new-type colony and military base for the United States.

First of all, they are desperately carrying out the following schemes:

1. They are continuing to intensify their war of aggression in South Vietnam by bringing additional U.S. and satellite troops in; they are attempting to rebuild and stabilize the puppet army and puppet government to use it as a point of support for them; they are continuing their policy of "pacification" and "search and destroy" on some scale in the hope of firmly maintaining their key positions, weakening the South Vietnamese army and people, and driving the South Vietnamese army and people into a standoff with them.

2. They are intensifying their attacks against North Vietnam. Although their forces are weaker than before they will continue to fiercely attack North Vietnam in the hope of causing us many losses and limiting assistance from North Vietnam to the resistance of the South Vietnamese compatriots.

3. They are continuing to shout deceitfully about "a negotiated peace" in the hope of freeing themselves from their political isolation and deceiving the American people and the people of the world.

The enemy schemes are very dangerous but their ability to carry them out is limited. They have been seriously weakened during the recent period:

- The puppet army is paralyzed and disintegrated and is unable to carry out its "pacification" duty; the U.S. and satellite troops are unable to carry out the "search and destroy" tasks. On the contrary, the U.S. and puppet troops are the search-and-destroy targets of our army and people. The morale of the U.S., puppet, and satellite troops is seriously flagging.

- Enemy forces have been spread thin over all theatres and are being drawn into the relentless encirclement of the three types of troops of our people.

- The internal contradictions of the United States and the
puppets are constantly increasing and they are forced to contend with very large political, military, and financial difficulties.

The strategic position of the United States is increasingly weakening not only in South Vietnam but throughout the world and never before have they been so isolated as today.

In order to move forward to defeat the invading U.S. pirates, all our army and people must charge forward under the impetus of victory and accelerate the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance.

Our priority and urgent task at present is to mobilize the maximum efforts of the entire party, all the army and all the people, to accelerate attacks and uprisings, and to defeat the U.S. imperialists and the Thieu-Ky clique of henchmen.

The attack and uprising of our people is a process of combining military attacks with political attacks. In that process, the South Vietnamese army and people continuously attack and continuously win victories.

Since the early spring waves of attacks and uprisings, the South Vietnamese army and people have been developing the victories already obtained; on the one hand, tightening the encirclement around the cities, firmly holding the positions won, and continuing to attack and destroy the enemy force; on the other hand, continuing to liberate the rural areas, destroying the remaining "strategic hamlets," and enlarging the liberated area; consolidating the rear area and continuing to develop the military forces and the political forces and to construct the revolutionary government of our people.

IV-Evolving Vigorously in Thought and in Action and Striving to Complete the Duty of the Great Rear Area to the Great Front Line and to Build, Protect, and Consolidate North Vietnam.

In order to defeat the invading U.S. pirates, our army and people in both parts of the country must make the maximum efforts militarily, politically, and economically in order to continuously strengthen our forces and carry out attacks and uprisings until final victory is achieved. In North Vietnam, it is necessary to successfully carry out the following most important tasks:

1-Accelerate support to South Vietnam and intensify the protection of North Vietnam.
North Vietnam must mobilize its manpower and materiel to the maximum extent in order to fully and promptly respond to the needs of the great front line. Our cadre, party members, and people must be ready to surmount every difficulty and to endure every hardship in order to support the great front line and guarantee victory over the invading U.S. pirates for South Vietnam.

We must strive to protect North Vietnam and be ready to defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction at its greatest intensity; at the same time, we must be ready to annihilate them if they expand the "limited war" to the entire country.

We must continue to strengthen the forces of the national defense. We must firmly maintain order and security, resolutely punish counterrevolutionary elements, and defeat the espionage and psychological warfare of the enemy.

We must intensify international activities and the diplomatic struggle.

2-Successfully carry out the 1968 state plan irrespective of the situation in order to consolidate the great rear area and effectively support the front line.

Agriculturally, intensify the emulation movement to realize three specific goals: an annual return of five tons of paddy per hectare; two pigs per hectare of cultivation; and one worker for each hectare of cultivation. This is designed to better resolve the problem of grains and foodstuffs and to guarantee the army and people enough to eat so they can win. Regardless of how intense the war becomes or how difficult the weather becomes we must endeavor to firmly maintain and accelerate agricultural production.

Industriously, we must step-up production in the important branches. All provinces must strive to develop local industry in order to satisfy essential needs for production materials and consumer materials locally.

As for communications and transportation, we must ensure that they are passable in all situations, especially the strategic routes. Communications and transportation constitute the foremost ad hoc task of our entire party and all our people in North Vietnam.

We must continue the struggle between the two paths, complete the reform of the production relationship, intensify the technological revolution and the ideological and cultural
revolution, improve economic management, relentlessly increase labor productivity, combat waste and corruption and bureaucracy; these are very important undertakings in order to accelerate the production and consolidate the socialist production relationship.

Devote more concern to the interests of the masses and properly organize the material and spiritual life of the people. The party rule is that the mobilization of the power of the people must be accompanied by an effort to develop that power. First of all, we must concentrate on successfully carrying out the people's air defense work, protecting the life and property of the people, and properly implement the distribution of grains and foodstuffs and of essential consumer goods to the masses in the rural areas and in the cities; correctly enforce the various policies guaranteeing the combat and support needs of the front line, especially the policy on military recruitment, the policy relating to families of military personnel, and the various policies relating to wounded and sick soldiers and families of soldiers killed in action and of war heroes.

4. The key thing to successfully completing the aforementioned tasks is to strengthen solidarity and unanimity within the party, to increase the combat power of the party, to respect the collective master right of the masses, and to intensely develop the activism and creativity of the masses.

The present full-blown anti-U.S. national salvation movement is a very good opportunity for our party to recruit many new forces and to train party members, further strengthening our party organizationally and ideologically. All echelons of the party must attach more importance to party development, to organizational work, and to investigative work. Daily activities of party chapters must be improved. Activities of cadre and party members among the masses must be improved with a view to constantly strengthening the relationship between the party and the masses. Cadre and party members must genuinely attach importance to the collective master right of the masses, respect socialist laws, and obey state regulations.

The anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of our people has entered a new period. The early spring offensive and uprising of the South Vietnamese people inaugurated this period with very great and all-embracing victories. As the revolutionary assault fighters, all cadre and party members must undergo a more powerful evolution in thought and in action, striving to complete in the best way their proud task. All our party and military and people, propelled by victory, must bravely fight and completely defeat the invading U.S. pirates.
Above all else, all of us must clearly understand the situation and task in the new period and clearly comprehend the objectives, contents, and great and all-encompassing victories of the South Vietnamese army and people in the general offensive and uprising. Thereupon, they must further elevate their enthusiasm, pride, and absolute confidence in the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance line of the party, in the enlightened leadership of the Party Central Committee and of Chairman Ho, in the inexhaustible revolutionary ability of our people, and in the ultimate victory of the anti-U.S. national salvation cause of our people; further elevate the spirit of independent thought and the confidence in the strength and creative intelligence of the masses.

We must constantly cling to the line and policy of the party, develop the spirit of revolutionary assault, never waver before any hardship or sacrifice, and strive to intensify the patriotic emulation movement in production, combat, and work.

In addition to increasing the combat zeal and instilling revolutionary heroism, we must ward off and overcome every manifestation of rightist thinking, such as fear of sacrifice, fear of hardship, lack of organization, lack of discipline, special privileges and interests, disregard of the interests of the masses, and failure to respect the collective master right of the masses. At the same time, we must be sure to overcome subjective and hasty attitudes and failure to fully consider the difficulties on the way to final victory.

Each of our cadre and party members must clearly understand what his locality, his group, and he himself is to do and how they are to do it in order to help carry out the tasks of North Vietnam with a view to serving the offensive and uprising of the South Vietnamese compatriots and in order to promptly and fully respond to every need of the front line and contribute to the increasing strength of the socialist North.

Each of our comrades must develop his vanguard role and strive to lead and organize the masses to properly carry out every immediate task and mission and to implement the slogan: "Everything in order to defeat the invading U.S. pirates."