

B102
FILE SUBJ
DATE SUB-CAT
5107

5. General Nguyen Chi Thanh of the Victorious Dry-Season Campaign of 1966-67*

The glorious victories of "the iron bastion of the fatherland" have brought our troops and people throughout the country an intense and tumultuous joy and have encouraged us to take advantage of these victories to advance by trampling on the enemy's head and driving him into the abyss of complete defeat. Let us warmly welcome these great victories by the Southern compatriots and Liberation Armed Forces. Let us acclaim the heroic South, which has inscribed new, brilliant victories in the glorious history of the heroic Vietnamese people.

During their dry-season strategic counteroffensive, the U.S. imperialists turned their aggressive war in Vietnam into a local war, the largest in the world to date. On the 170,000-square-meter [sic] Southern territory, the Americans have mobilized an aggressive force of over a million U.S., puppet, and satellite troops (400,000 of whom are U.S. expeditionary troops), or 20 divisions; they have used all categories of the most modern weapons, nuclear weapons excepted; they have spent over 20 billion dollars a year on war expenses; they have had at their disposal vast amounts of bombs and ammunition; and they have resorted to the cruelest measures. In relation to the previous dry-season strategic counteroffensive, the Americans have doubled their expeditionary troops and increased their war matériel by 50 percent. By deploying such a large military force, the enemy hoped his military activities would bring a turning point on the battlefield and achieve decisive victory in a short period. But it is precisely in this fierce test of power that the U.S. bandits lost another strategic round.

The heroic Southern troops and people have won their greatest victories since the outbreak of the anti-U.S. national-salvation struggle. According to still-incomplete statistics, after seven months of continued attacks the Southern troops and people have annihilated 175,000 enemy troops, 70,000 of whom were U.S. troops; wiped out 49 battalions and equivalent units and

*Published in *Quan Doi Nhan Dan*, May 31, 1967, and broadcast by Radio Hanoi's Domestic Service, 1115 GMT, May 31, 1967.

and building and improving our forces. If we do not have forces, we cannot extirpate the enemy. If we have a force but do not actively develop and improve it, we cannot attack the enemy continuously.

5. It is necessary to attend to the arrangement of guidance to implement satisfactorily all combat and building plans. To organize guidance, it is necessary to focus on these problems: setting principles, guidelines, and guidance relations; ensuring unified leadership; ensuring the development of the functions of every organ and branch; placing cadres in suitable posts; paying major attention to promoting and markedly strengthening the cadres; having constant control of the situation; thinking ahead and working out coordinated plans; supervising and penetrating the basic structures; and constantly recapitulating our experiences and launching emulation drives. These are the most essential problems of the guidance link. Many experiences have proved that any locality that has high determination and skill in organizing things can overcome difficulties and shortcomings and advance the movement. A high determination can also be manifested concretely by an effort to [?solve organizational problems] and to guide the execution of plans. Any locality that fails to accomplish these things will face many difficulties and [words indistinct].

In brief, the present guidance tasks require understanding of the following four matters: understanding the viewpoint of the people's war, understanding determination, understanding the mass viewpoint, and understanding the concept of guidance [words indistinct]. At present, guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam suggests many great problems and is undergoing several developments that cannot be entirely dealt with here. It is one of the basic problems in the people's war of a new, independent, small country struggling against the aggressive war waged by U.S. imperialism, the most powerful ringleader of the imperialist camp. Since this war is being fought in the second half of the twentieth century with the greatest scientific inventions and advanced military techniques, the people's war in itself contains the most up-to-date elements, not material and technical elements, but spiritual, ideological, and organizational ones. It proves that despite its wealth, its numerous weapons, and its cruel and cunning schemes, imperialism cannot subdue the oppressed peoples of the world but is being defeated by the revolutionary people. It proves that the revolutionary forces of the masses and people are invincible. The revolutionary people are the force that determines the direction of history. We have reason to be proud of our people's war and of our people's revolutionary condition.

I have dealt with a number of achievements on the battlefield, hoping that they will aid the study of the military line of our people, and that an exchange of experiences will help make this line richer and more perfect.

230 companies; downed and destroyed 1,800 planes; destroyed 3,985 military vehicles of all types (1,785 of which were armored vehicles) and 340 cannons; sunk 100 warships and motorboats, and so forth. Of the total force the enemy had when he started this counteroffensive, his military losses during this winter-spring period represented one-fourth of the U.S. and satellite troops; one-fifth of the puppet troops, half of the enemy's planes, and two-thirds of his armored vehicles. Although the enemy has doubled his force, our Southern troops and people have annihilated 50 percent more enemy troops than during the previous winter-spring period, and have maintained and enlarged the liberated areas. This is a great victory. The Southern troops and people not only have wiped out a large number of enemy troops, but also have completely wiped out many enemy battalions and companies and destroyed part of his most seasoned troops and a large quantity of modern war matériel. Called the Americans' strong points, those things destroyed include seasoned units, officers, technicians, communications centers, command posts, airfields, logistical bases, planes, cannons, tanks, missiles, and so forth.

Our South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only firmly maintained but also developed their leading position to a new degree. Our South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only preserved but also strongly developed their offensive position. Our South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only firmly maintained but also developed their initiative on the battlefield. Our South Vietnamese armed forces and people have not only defeated the enemy but also become stronger in combat. The biggest U.S. operation, Operation Junction City in Tay Ninh, was a most bitter setback, which obviously marked the failure of their second dry-season strategic counteroffensive plan to carry out search-and-destroy operations.

Our South Vietnamese armed forces and people once again smashed the pacification program of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, although the entire rebel force, one-tenth of the U.S. forces, and a part of the Pak Chong-hui South Korean forces were used to carry out this program. And although they closely coordinated their search-and-destroy and mop-up operations with the efforts to herd the population and to carry out the pacification program by priority sectors, such as Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Long An, Ben Tre, and so forth, guerrilla warfare has developed to the greatest [?extent], and the enemy's pacification program and his plans to stabilize the situation in urban centers and to strengthen the rebel administration have been broken to pieces. [President] Johnson had to admit this bitter setback, by changing the [?command] machinery and withdrawing the Cabot Lodge-Landsdale team. This shows it is the most bitter defeat of the U.S. neocolonialist policy in South Vietnam since the downfall of the puppet Ngo Dinh Diem regime.

A new situation has emerged from this victorious winter-spring campaign throughout the South Vietnam battlefield. From Tri-Thien, Tay Nguyen, and the coastal area of central Trung Bo to the eastern part of Nam Bo and the Mekong River delta, the military situation of our South Vietnamese armed forces and people on the various strategic positions has developed strongly, regularly, and harmoniously. Everywhere in the South there are crushing blows by main forces and regional forces and guerrilla encirclements. The South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces, through this violent test of strength with the

enemy, have quickly attained their maturity. The longer they fight, the stronger and the more resistant they become and the more experience they gain. Many units have shown great fighting capacity; they strike fast and completely destroy large U.S.-rebel units. The Liberation Armed Forces' artillery fire has roared throughout the battlefield during this winter-spring campaign, thus marking a new phase in the development of the Liberation Armed Forces and contributing to heightening their fighting capacity and effectiveness in many battles. This vivid reality clearly shows the bitter defeat suffered by the so-called two-pronged strategy of the U.S. aggressors and their violent escalation of the war against North Vietnam with a view to isolating the South Vietnamese revolution. In their glorious anti-U.S. national-salvation struggle, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people once again have scored a victory of great strategic importance.

The war in South Vietnam is entering a violent phase. If we examine the speed and scale of the increase in war efforts, we can see that the last seven-month dry season was the most violent phase of the entire war. The U.S. aggressors wanted to find a turning point from which to advance, but they had to take a step backward. The U.S. local-war strategy has turned from a state of passiveness and confusion to a near state of deadlock. All the strategic objectives set forth and all methods used by the U.S. aggressors have been frustrated. The U.S. expeditionary troops are on the decline. The puppet troops are even worse. The U.S. ruling clique is facing difficult, insoluble problems. When and how can the Viet Cong main force be destroyed? When and how can the so-called pacification task be fulfilled? To what extent must the war of destruction against the North be escalated to become effective? What is to be done to win a turning point on the battlefield? Johnson himself had to say, "The Americans are in a deadlocked and bloody situation in South Vietnam."

With their glorious feats of arms in the past winter-spring period, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have transformed into a shining reality the ability to defeat the aggressive armed force composed of more than one million U.S., puppet, and satellite troops. In defeating the U.S. imperialists' limited-war strategy, the achievements of our South Vietnamese armed forces and people in the previous winter-spring period established a firm basis for the achievements of this winter-spring period, and now, this winter-spring period has in turn created a new basis and new prospects for moving ahead to score greater victories. First of all, the great achievements of the 1966-67 winter-spring period represent the brilliant success of the determination of our 14 million South Vietnamese compatriots and of all our people to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors for independence, the reunification of the fatherland, socialism, and the noble international revolutionary task of the people of the world. The achievements of the 1966-67 winter-spring period represent the brilliant success of the talented political and military policies of the NFLSV. This is a great political success. The achievements of the 1966-67 winter-spring period represent a great strategic success and an important tactical success. The great achievements of the 1966-67 winter-spring period represent also the brilliant success of the love between the kith and kin of North and South.

The South calls, the North answers; the North calls, the South answers. Each zone sides with the other to exterminate the nation's common enemy. Every achievement of the vast front line is a strong encouragement for the vast rear.

Every furrow, every hammer blow, every truckload, and every feat of arms of the North's vast rear in downing the U.S. aggressors' aircraft or sinking U.S. warships lends great and valuable support to our 14 million kith-and-kin South Vietnamese compatriots. The U.S. aggressors have fiercely attacked the North. However, the North Vietnamese armed forces and people are determined to keep devoting all their heart and strength together with the South Vietnamese compatriots to the liberation of the South and to persevere in the resistance until final victory. The great achievements of the 1966-67 winter-spring period are the success of the international solidarity, national independence, democratic, social progress, and world peace movement.

With the aim of enslaving the Northern part of our country, for more than ten years the U.S. aggressors have committed towering crimes, made serious mistakes, and repeatedly sustained heavier and heavier defeats. For nearly two years, during which they have prosecuted a large-scale limited war in the South and expanded the war of destruction against the North, the U.S. aggressors have suffered worse and worse defeats. Their political and strategic situation in the South is worse than in any previous period. Their strength has been worn down, their ability to plan exhausted, and their position deadlocked. The U.S. aggressors and the puppets are writhing in a serious political, strategic, and tactical crisis and are unable to turn the tide, although they still have money and strength, and they are still unscrupulous and deceitful, all of which we must not subjectively underestimate.

For more than ten years of anti-U.S. national-salvation struggle, our South Vietnamese people have repeatedly won extremely glorious victories. For nearly two years of battle against the great U.S. expeditionary corps and puppet troops, they have achieved more glorious and greater historical successes. The political and strategic situation of the revolution in South Vietnam has improved. Although the fight is still difficult and requires more patience and tremendous efforts for final victory, the people and Liberation Armed Forces in South Vietnam have made great achievements because they have proved to be extremely valiant, clever, and creative, have correctly evaluated their and the enemy's abilities, have displayed high determination to strike at the Americans bravely and properly, and have absolute confidence in their victory over the U.S. aggressors and their puppets.

All the Southern people and Liberation Armed Forces are under the clear-sighted and clever leadership of the NFLSV, the sole and genuine representative of South Vietnam. Our 31 million compatriots have risen up as one man to fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. The great front and the great rear are closely united in the struggle. Undergoing a severe ordeal, our people are living through the most seething revolutionary days with great optimism and great pride in their historic duty toward the nation and all progressive mankind. Our children grow wise by the time they reach the age of reason. Our old men and women feel rejuvenated. Our women assume all responsibilities in all fields, from agricultural work to military affairs. Our young men and women, considering death for the country a burden lighter than a feather, rush forward to the battlefield in great numbers. Our dead repose after fulfilling their tasks in glory, while the living are emulating one another in killing the enemy and performing exploits. All our people are eager to exterminate the

enemy and save their country and their families. They are animated by an extremely brave and calm spirit and entertain the same great thoughts and sentiments and noble character as Tran Hung Dao, Nguyen Trai, Truong Dinh, and Ho Chi Minh.

Despite their great failures, the U.S. aggressors have worked out more cunning and malicious schemes and have increased their forces to step up the war of aggression against South Vietnam and the war of destruction against North Vietnam. But we are ready. If we have to make more sacrifices and endure more hardships, and if we have to fight another five, ten, twenty years, or longer, we will fight resolutely. With our determination and patience, increasing power, and steadfast strength, and with our numerous forces, we are determined to fight and vanquish the U.S. aggressors.

President Ho has said, "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. We will sacrifice everything, pay any cost, to win back our independence and freedom." Let us deal the U.S.-puppet troops more stunning blows. We will surely win. The U.S. aggressors will surely fail.