South Viet Nam

A MONTH OF UNPRECEDENTED OFFENSIVE AND UPRISING

GIAI PHONG PUBLISHING HOUSE – MARCH 1968
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Early in the spring of 1968 a revolutionary storm with unprecedented violence swept South Viet Nam. The offensive of the revolutionary forces and the simultaneous uprising of the population utterly shook more than sixty urban centres, including Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, and hit at nearly all of the enemy’s military and logistic bases.

The balance-sheet of the first people’s onslaught described by a Western journalist as an "extraordinary display of force, efficaciousness and heroism", was disastrous for the American aggressors and their lackeys.

The adversary suffered important losses in men and matériel. The disintegration of the puppet army had assumed a new, precipitated rate, and all strategic communications blocked or cut off.

The Saigon administration, which forms with the puppet army, the two props of U.S. neo-colonialism, found itself in disorganization or collapse at all levels.
In the wake of the almost complete demolition of the "strategic hamlet" network the rural-oppression apparatus had been broken down.

Thus driven to a more defensive position, the enemy saw their strategic plan upset. Their "two-prong" strategy — "search and destroy" and "rural pacification" — had backfired. The morale of their troops just as the prestige of the United States, which had been ever more isolated in the world and divided at home as a result of its war in Viet Nam, had received a serious blow.

Meanwhile, the South Vietnamese people had scored new points. They controlled numerous urban centres and liberated almost all the rural areas thus far under the enemy's grip. The largely mobilized masses rose up and co-ordinated their action with that of the armed forces. The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the National and Peace Alliance and other patriotic organizations came into being. People's revolutionary committees were set up in Hue, Thua Thien province and other places. The military and political offensive took place at the same time in towns, in the countryside and mountain regions. The revolutionary forces — both military and political — grew up rapidly in number and quality as well. With varied strata of the urban population siding with them, even functionaries and militarymen of the Saigon administration and army
defecting or rebelling against the puppets and their American masters, the front of national union had been strengthened.

Solid bases, therefore, had been created for the final victory of the Vietnamese people.

Enraged by their own setbacks the American aggressors and Thieu-Ky did not shrink from any means worthy of another age. They struck at the population with bombs, gas, toxic chemicals, burning down entire urban quarters and agglomerations, rendering hundreds of thousands homeless. Their farce of relief to the war victims and their rage will not save them from defeat.

The whole world is on our side. Rejoicing at the recent successes of our people's struggle against U.S. imperialism are the Party and Government leaders of the Soviet Union, China and the other socialist countries, newly independent countries, Communist and Workers' Parties around the world as well as national and international organizations, prominent political and social figures, peace-, freedom- and justice-loving people of all countries, including the United States.

For our readers we have gathered in this booklet documents related to the first thirty days of the popular storm which continues to rage over the length and breath of South Viet Nam, documents necessary to the understanding of the present phase of the South Vietnamese people's resistance war.

GIAI PHONG PUBLISHING HOUSE
1968
Appeal
Of the South Vietnam
N.F.L. Central Committee

February 3, 1968

Since the night of January 30, 1968, i.e. the Mau Than Lunar New Year's Day, in response to rousing orders from the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have been pushing forward, resolved to mete out deserved punishment to the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors, who have trampled underfoot all aspirations and interests of our people and continued their bombing and shelling, massacre and repression of our compatriots even during Tet, our traditional festival day:

From Quang Tri - Thua Thien - Hue to Cape Ca Mau, from Saigon, Nha Trang, Da Nang, to Dalat and the Western High Plateaux, in waves of tempestuous assaults inspired by anger and hatred accumulated over the years for the sworn enemy of the nation, our compatriots and fighters of the People's Liberation
Armed Forces have been fighting valiantly, striking hard blows on all fronts, making deep thrusts into scores of enemy key bases, achieving brilliant feats, unprecedented in their resistance against American aggression for national salvation.

The armed forces and people of the South have revived the historic days of the victories at Bach Dang, Chi Lang, Dong Da *, the Nam Ky insurrection **, the August Revolution ***, the Dien Bien Phu victory, carried on the tradition of our forefathers, and shed glorious light on the history of the heroic Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign invasion. In co-ordination with the People's Liberation Armed Forces, everywhere people of all walks of life have rushed forward to fight the American aggressors and annihilate their puppets, liberate towns and villages, and set up revolutionary power. Large numbers of officers and men, whole units of the puppet army, and many functionaries of the puppet administration have seized upon this unique opportunity to return to the side of the people, and serve the fatherland.

The victories won early this spring by our armymen and compatriots are bringing joy and enthusiasm to our entire people and to our friends on the five continents, sowing fear and panic among the American aggressors and the Thieu – Ky clique of traitors, and causing their rapid collapse.

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* Decisive victories won by the Vietnamese people over foreign aggression in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.
** Armed insurrection in 1946 in the Mekong delta.
*** Successful insurrection in August 1945 throughout Vietnam, after which the D.R.V.N. was born.
The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly praises and commends the brilliant exploits of the fighters and cadres of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the forces waging political struggle, the members of the Associations for Liberation, all patriots and volunteer fighters in town and country, delta and mountain, all over South Viet Nam.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly hails the Alliance of National and Peace Forces and the National, Democratic and Peace Alliance and other revolutionary organizations born at this historic hour and engaged in the fight for national salvation together with the entire people.

The American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique, driven to madness by their shameful defeats, are conducting savage terror and repression against our compatriots of all strata, bombing and shelling populous areas, pagodas, etc. in the hope of crushing the indomitable will of our armed forces and people, thus revealing their warlike, mulish and blood-thirsty nature.

In face of this situation, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on:

— The entire armed forces and people to rush forward on the impetus of their victories, strike even harder, deeper and on a wider front, launch a general offensive to annihilate the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique and achieve still greater successes;
— People of all walks of life in the cities and regions still under the control of the enemy, irrespective of age, sex, political conviction, religious belief and nationality, to unite and rise up in armed insurrection, use whatever weapon they have in hand, act in co-ordination with the revolutionary armed forces, smash the puppet administrative machinery, put an end to their servitude, wrest back the right to be masters of their destinies, and achieve peace, independence, freedom and a decent livelihood;

— The people in the newly-liberated areas to quickly assemble in revolutionary organizations, set up armed self-defence groups, establish and defend revolutionary power, crush all the enemy’s counter-attacks or attempts to counter-attack;

— The people of the old liberated areas and the revolutionary bases to devote all their efforts to serving the front, production work and combat, and achieving still more resounding exploits.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on the Chinese and other foreign residents to side with the South Vietnamese people against the American aggressors and their lackeys.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation urges officers and men of the puppet army, officials of the puppet administration to quickly seize upon this favourable opportunity and, together with the people of all strata and the revolutionary armed forces, rise up and turn their guns on the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique, in order to save themselves, their families and the fatherland.
The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls on the American and satellite troops to disobey their warlike commanders, refuse to be driven to a shameful death and to oppose the patriotic activities of the Vietnamese people, resolutely demand their repatriation and an end to this dirty war of aggression.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation warmly welcomes the 17 million blood-sealed compatriots in the North, who have been ceaselessly giving encouragement to the armed forces and people of the South and standing shoulder to shoulder with them in the sacred resistance against American aggression, for national salvation.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation solemnly calls on the peoples of fraternal Cambodia and Laos, the peoples of the friendly countries, the American and all peace-and justice-loving people in the world to give still stronger support and assistance to the South Vietnamese people’s struggle against American aggression, for national salvation.

Compatriots and fighters,

The hour has struck! Let the 14 million South Vietnamese rise up and deal mortal blows at the American aggressors, overthrow the Thieu- Ky clique of traitors, win complete victory, liberate the South, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advance towards national reunification.

Under the glorious and invincible banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, forward!
Saigon

United States Embassy...
...and the Tan Son Nhat airfield a few minutes after the P.L.A.F. launched their attack.
nearly a month
from above Viet \( \text{Nam's} \) ancient capital during

The N.\( \text{LT} \) flew battled forty-three miles

Hue
G.I.'s in a quarter of the city
Under the P.L.A.F. continual pounding American positions were set on fire...
...and the G.I.'s hurriedly evacuated their dead and wounded
COMMUNIQUE
OF THE ENLARGED EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE PRESIDIUM
OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

February 13, 1968

On February 11 and 12, 1968, the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee convened an enlarged extraordinary session presided over by its President Nguyen Huu Tho, to have an over-all survey of the situation in South Viet Nam since the opening of the Front's large-scale offensive, draw appropriate conclusions and set immediate tasks for the Front.

The Session was attended by all members of the Presidium and the Secretariat of the Central Committee, as well as by representatives of the People's Liberation Armed Forces Command, of the political parties and organizations — members of the Front — and by many high-ranking cadres in charge of various branches of activities attached to the Committee.

The Session heard:

— Tran Nam Trung, Vice-President of the Presidium and President of the Military Commission attached to
the Central Committee, reporting on the development of the military situation on the various South Viet Nam battlefronts;

— Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-President of the Presidium and Secretary General of the Central Committee, reporting on the over-all situation in Saigon, Cho Lon, Hue, Da Nang, towns and townships throughout South Viet Nam as well as on the situation in the rural areas still under enemy control before the offensive;

— Y Bit Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium and President of the Western Plateaux Nationalities Movement for Self-Determination, reporting on the situation in the region;

— Tran Buu Kiem, Presidium member and President of the Commission for Relations with Foreign Countries attached to the Central Committee, reporting on world repercussions as a result of the victories won by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people in the early days of spring.

The Session devoted much time to assess the over-all situation and discuss immediate tasks for the Front:

1. The Session unanimously held that within a brief period, from January 30 to February 10, 1968, in response to the appeal made by the Front, the people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces had conducted big, simultaneous attacks and uprisings on all battlefields from Quang Tri to Ca Mau, winning major all-round victories unheard-of in our great patriotic war for the liberation of South Viet Nam from the ruthless rule of the U.S. imperialists and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors.
Our armed forces and people have attacked in all the large cities, almost all the provincial capitals and townships, military sectors and sub sectors, a series of military bases, airfields and storages of the U.S.-puppets, even many of their last hideouts; they have thus killed or wounded a large number of U.S. troops, wiped out and disorganized a very important part of the puppet army, including regiment-or battalion-sized units crossed out from the call-roll, destroying leading organs and military headquarters of various levels and millions of tons of weapons and other war means, cutting off or paralysing strategic highways, forcing the surrender of a series of posts, capturing a number of American and puppet officers and soldiers, crushing grass-root puppet administrative organs and upsetting or paralysing central ones.

Prompted by high revolutionary mettle, people of all strata in urban and rural areas so far under enemy control rose up as tidal waves, smashing the enemy’s grip, punishing cruel agents and traitors, liberating vast expanses in the countryside, many district towns and townships, establishing people’s revolutionary power, breaking the enemy’s “pacification prong”, occupying and controlling many provincial capitals, towns and townships, repelling enemy counter-attacks, and winning far-reaching successes.

In this revolutionary storm sweeping the urban and rural areas our people are developing their political and military forces by leaps and bounds. Millions of them freshly freed from enemy rule, regardless of age, sex, religious belief and nationality, are being organized;
tens of thousands of boys and girls enlist to fight for the defence of the fatherland.

The alliance of national, democratic and peace forces has come into existence and is working in the large cities and, shoulder to shoulder with other patriotic organizations, has assumed its glorious task before the nation. The united front of solidarity against U.S. aggression, for national salvation of our entire people has been consolidated and broadened more than ever before.

The whole world is attentively following our struggle and all progressive mankind warmly hails our resounding victories won in these early days of spring, and encouraging us to march forward to complete victory.

These big, all-round victories are of considerable importance.

Once more these victories prove the complete correctness of our political and military lines and policies. These result from a resolute and creative leadership which attaches equal importance to both military and political struggles, both urban and rural areas. These victories testify to the invincible strength of people's war. On the other hand, they point to the irretrievable bankruptcy of the entire strategy and all the policies of U.S. imperialism in its "limited war" of aggression, aimed at imposing the yoke of neo-colonialism on our people; they also lay bare the utter rottenness and inevitable collapse of the puppet army and administration created by U.S. imperialism.

Our victories have dealt a very heavy blow at the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, thus giving
rise to quick and important changes in the current balance of forces between us and the enemy, and generating most favourable conditions and a firm basis for our people to achieve final, complete victory.

2. In an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and confidence the Session paid high tribute to the extraordinary combativeness and splendid, resourcefulness of all the cadres and fighters of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, offspring of the heroic Vietnamese people, to their three categories of forces—regular army, regional troops, militia and guerillas—who had been attacking on all battlefields, dealing telling blows at and striking fright into the enemy, performing brilliant exploits. On the seventh anniversary of the historic merging of all the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, the Session called on their cadres and fighters to promote with might and main the fine tradition of a revolutionary army which is theirs, to march forward valiantly, launch continual attacks, score victory after victory and fulfil the glorious task entrusted them by the people.

The Session paid high tribute to the patriotism, solidarity and dauntless struggle of our compatriots in Saigon, Gia Dinh, Hue, Da Nang and other cities, provincial capitals and towns throughout South Viet Nam who, animated with deep hatred for the enemy, evincing heroism, ready to make any sacrifice rather than be enslaved, and firmly convinced that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," had valiantly stood up, smashed the grip of the Americans and their puppets and their regime.
of oppression and exploitation, wrested back control, quickly developed their political and military strength, wholeheartedly assisted and supplied the Liberation forces, thus largely contributing to the brilliant victories of the entire South Vietnamese army and people in the early days of spring.

The Session paid high tribute to our compatriots still living under the enemy's control in the plains and mountain regions who had simultaneously risen up, shattered the enemy's grip, liberated vast areas and established their own revolutionary power; it warmly hails those in the newly-liberated zones and in the base areas for their great contribution in human and material resources to the victories of our entire people. The Session greeted and welcomed the emergence of the alliance of national, democratic and peace forces and various patriotic organizations set up by the people and rallied armymen as well as other revolutionary armed organizations. It was firmly convinced that the bloc of national union constitutes the invincible force that enables our people to fulfil the glorious task entrusted them by the nation and history, and lead the struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation to complete victory.

The Session acknowledged the meritorious deeds of the patriotic officers, soldiers, personnel and units of the puppet army and functionaries of the puppet administration, who, aware of the trend of the situation, had completely dissociated themselves from the enemy, rallied to the just cause of our people and together with our people, struggled against U.S. aggression. It
urged those who still remained in the puppet army and administration to clearly realize the present situation and timely choose the correct path by returning to the people's side and contributing to the liberation of the fatherland.

3. Basing itself on the over-all analysis of the situation on ours and the enemy's side, the Session with the firmest determination arrived at decisions on tasks, policies and immediate measures to make our entire people and their armed forces, in the thrust of their victories, rush forward, enhance their seething revolutionary mettle, strive to maintain and accentuate the impact of their great successes, launch continual attacks and simultaneous uprisings, resolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow the puppet administration and secure complete victory.

On the proposal of the Emulation Committee attached to the Front Central Committee, the Session decided to commend the urban and other areas and the People's Liberation Armed Forces units which had recorded outstanding achievements early this spring.

The Session also heard reports by Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Front Central Committee and President of the Liberation Red Cross, and by Superior Thich Thien Hao, representative of the patriotic Buddhist members of the Front, and President of the Commission for Denouncing the U.S. and puppets' War Crimes in South Viet Nam, on the barbarous crimes perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys against the population in Saigon, Hue and other centres. It strongly condemned
and denounced to world public opinion the most barbarous revanchist measures taken by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the Thieu-Ky against the civilian population by massacring them en masse with bombs and toxic gases, devastating their houses, compelling tens of thousands of them to live in very hard conditions.

The Session called on the townsfolk and the People’s Liberation Armed Forces to translate their hatred into a material force, so as to strike the criminals well-deserved blows, defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors, overthrow the puppet administration, smash their extremely cruel domination once for all, liberate the cherished South of the Fatherland, and at the same time, unite and help one another in daily life.

The enemy of our people are finding themselves in a most difficult situation and in an utterly confused and seriously dead locked battle-array.

Aggressive and bellicose, obdurate and cruel by nature, they are frenziedly thrashing about, resorting to ruthless war methods. Nevertheless, their undertaking is crumbling and doomed to complete failure.

Our people’s fight has reached quite a new phase in which it requires a considerable sense of urgency, assumes considerable relentlessness and progresses by leaps and bounds.

We have made a really good start.

Our position is very steady, our strength is manifold greater.

Compatriots and fighters, unite millions like one, overcome every hardship, make every sacrifice and take
advantage of our successes to forge ahead; attack unremittingly, rise up in force and score victories daily and hourly in our rush towards complete victory, thereby fulfilling the great and glorious tasks you are entrusted by the nation and history so as to build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, pending the reunification of the fatherland.
Since the night of January 29, 1968, the People’s Liberation Armed Forces, together with the entire people of South Viet Nam, have been continually stepping up their attacks and uprisings of unprecedented violence.

In nearly thirty days and nights of extremely valiant fighting, our armed forces and people have launched attacks against the enemy and risen up in all urban centres and provincial capitals of South Viet Nam, striking accurately at almost all key positions of the enemy, big and small, from the central to the local level and from Saigon and Hue cities to the provinces, seized control of many places and inflicted heavy losses on the U.S., puppet and satellite troops as well as the puppet administration. In many areas, we have struck the enemy again and again and smashed their counter-attacks. Most outstanding and glorious exploits have been recorded by our armed forces and people in Saigon and Hue and the cities or provincial capitals of
Da Nang, Hoi An, Da Lat, Phan Thiet, Ban Me Thuot, My Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long.

Our armed forces and people have
— attacked the enemy and risen up in hundreds of district towns and townships;
— attacked the enemy and risen up simultaneously in all the rural areas still under the enemy’s grip and seized control of nearly all these areas;
— attacked a series of enemy command posts of various levels, U.S. operational headquarters, puppet army corps headquarters, headquarters of puppet arms and services and of U.S., puppet and satellite divisions, brigades and regiments as well as military sectors and sub-sectors of the puppet army;
— attacked a series of military bases and defence lines of the enemy, the most outstanding victory in this connection being the complete destruction of the Lang Vay position;
— attacked 45 airfields, causing to the enemy enormous losses in planes, bombs, ammunition and fuel, as well as in technical and flying personnel. The biggest U.S. airbases in South Vietnam such as Da Nang, Chu Lai, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhat, Phu Bai have also been struck. Many airfields have been repeatedly attacked such as Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhat, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Pleiku, Tra Noc, Tan Canh;
— attacked a series of enemy storages, seized or destroyed millions of tons of bombs and ammunition, fuel and other war material, among them big storage complexes such as Long Binh, Hanh Thong Tay, Nha Be, Bau Mac, Lien Chieu, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai,
Hue, Kontum, Pleiku, Ban Me Thuot, Qui Nhon, Soc Trang. Many of these dumps such as Long Binh have been attacked many times;

- attacked a series of harbours such as Cua Viet and Thu Thiem and naval bases such as Tra Vinh, Xeo Ro (Rach Gia), Dong Tam (My Tho), Nha Be and Vinh Long; attacked enemy ships and launches moving along the Huong River * and rivers in Ben Tre, An Giang, Vinh Long, Kien Tuong, My Tho, Long An, Ba Ria and Saigon. We have thus inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy in terms of warships, combat launches and other water transport means as well as in port facilities;

- cut off the enemy's communication lines, including such important ones as Highways Nos 1, 4, 14, 15, 19 and 20 which were paralysed for many days, blew up hundreds of bridges and attacked a series of truck parks, destroying thousands of military vehicles;

- demolished dozens of jails, thereby releasing tens of thousands of patriots detained by the enemy.

The offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people is still going on.

In nearly thirty days and nights of continual fighting they have scored very great and all-sided victories.

We have wiped out a large part of the enemy's effectives. According to preliminary data, we have killed, wounded or captured more than 90,000 enemy troops, among them over 20,000 American and satellite.

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* Better known to foreigners as Perfume River. Pub
We have annihilated many units, including 3 armoured regiments and 39 infantry, engineer, combat-police and motorized transport battalions (mostly infantry battalions), 8 squadrons of armoured cars and 120 companies. This is a very great achievement. In only four weeks we put out of action as many enemy troops as in three months on the average in 1967. The number of enemy battalions entirely wiped out equals the average of a nine-month period in 1967, the year of biggest victories as compared with any previous year. In face of the general offensive of our armed forces and people, the puppet army has disintegrated by big chunks. In the early days of February 1968, the number of puppet troops disbanded ran into 200,000. At present, this disintegration is accelerating at an alarming rate and the enemy has no hope to stop it. Most of the puppet militia, regional and police forces have been disbanded. In Hue city, 700 functionaries of the puppet administration made public apology, the puppet troops at 14 posts surrendered while nearly 1,000 officers and men took side with the people to fight the U.S. aggressors and the puppets. In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, 169 civil-guard platoons went over to the people's side to take part in the resistance against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation. In Ben Tre, My Tho, Kien Phong and An Giang provinces, up to February 10, the puppet troops in more than 80 posts had surrendered and handed over their weapons to the revolutionary forces. In Tra Vinh province, puppet troops at 13 posts revolted. So also did puppet troops at 36 posts in Cho Lach district, Ben Tre, within six days, and those at 21 posts in Chau Thanh district.
Tra Vinh. The puppet regular forces are also in a serious process of disintegration. Within a few days, 950 troops of the 7th Division in Central Nam Bo deserted. In Cai Lay district, My Tho, 500 soldiers left their ranks. The 4th Battalion of the 16th Regiment in Vinh Long has no more than 30 men.

We have destroyed a large part of the enemy war means. According to statistics available, we have shot down or destroyed on the ground more than 1,800 aircraft, knocked out more than 1,300 tanks and armoured cars, and thousands of other military vehicles, sunk or damaged 90 warships and combat launches, and destroyed millions of tons of bombs, ammunition and fuel. This is also a great achievement of our armed forces and people. Enemy losses in four weeks equal three-fifths of their total losses in 1967 in aircraft, one-third in armoured cars and two-fifths in warships or combat launches. This at the same time constitutes a very heavy defeat for the enemy. Their fire-power and mobility have been seriously weakened. Their combat units in many places are running short of ammunition, food, and fuel and are meeting with enormous difficulties in their movement just as in rescue operations. The U.S. First Airmobile Cavalry Division has only half of its normal aircraft strength left.

What the enemy regard as their strongest points and actually forms the main props of their troops has been badly hit. As a consequence, the morale of U.S., puppet and satellite troops has dropped to a new low. Our armed forces and people are continuing to bring into full play their tradition of striking accurately and continually, in day-time as at night, at the enemy airbases,
ports, storages, war material and transport means, of continually cutting off their communication lines, thus landing them in a still more critical situation, in the military and economic fields, with regard to both morale and matériel.

We have dealt shattering blows at the puppet administrative machine and expanded the people's control.

The puppet regime of the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors at the centre has come under heavy attacks and is being paralysed and disarrayed. The puppet administration at the provincial and district levels is also in a moribund state. Its machine of repression and its reactionary organizations in almost all villages and hamlets have been in the main wiped out. We have destroyed, captured, or forced enemy troops to withdraw from more than 700 posts and watch-towers. We have completely smashed the "rural pacification" plan which was so vital to the adversary. 1,200,000 more of our compatriots have been liberated from their grip. Our people have won the control of the most part of the vast countryside and many urban areas, and are speedily setting up revolutionary power at all levels. The Thua Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee has come into being to assume the tasks of a provincial and municipal people's administrative organ. This is another of our far-reaching successes. Our rear, a permanent factor of our victory, and our resistance areas have been considerably expanded, stretching from the Truong Son Range and the immense High Plateaux down to the vast plains of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and Central Trung Bo, from the mountain regions of
Eastern Nam Bo down to the Plain of Reeds and the immense Mekong Delta. Our manpower and material resources have increased quickly and steadily.

That at the same time is another very heavy failure for the enemy. The puppet administration, one of the main props of U.S. neo-colonialism, is now merely a decaying tree on the point of being pulled down by the revolutionary storm of our armed forces and people. The enemy's rear, the area and source of their plundering activities, has been narrowed down to an extent hitherto unknown.

In short, we have won victories of very important strategic significance, both militarily and politically. The aggressors and their puppets are suffering heaviest losses, very hard to be retrieved. They have failed to achieve the strategic objectives which they had long been pursuing such as to "search and destroy" the South Vietnamese people's armed forces, "pacify" the countryside, build up the puppet administration, consolidate the puppet army. In future, having to deal with a much more difficult situation, they will have still less chance to realize these objectives.

Precisely, because they have sustained so heavy losses and so bitter a setback the Americans and Thieu-Ky have recently cooked up and told fantastic tales over and over again in the hope of making black white, bolstering up the morale of the puppet troops and administrative personnel, and deceiving public opinion. However, they cannot hide an elephant with a basket. The truth is that our armed forces and people have won
unprecedented victories while the position of the Americans and their henchmen who have suffered unheard-of bitter failure, is becoming shakier with every passing hour, in everybody's eyes. That is why all their odious distortions have exploded like soap bubbles. Also to conceal their defeats and intimidate the Vietnamese people, they have used bombs and shells, toxic gas and noxious chemicals to massacre our people, set afire their houses, thus rendering tens of thousands of them homeless. Most cruel and cowardly pirates, while thus killing and burning, they call for "assistance" to those whose relatives are victims to their crimes. They want to put the blame on others, but their savage and vile acts cannot deceive our people. Neither can their bombs and shells intimidate our people. Like pouring oil on the flame, they embitter our people's hatred which will come down on their heads like thunderbolts. They will certainly have to repay ten times for their crimes. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, nothing can shake our people's determination to fight and to win, to die rather than live in slavery.

The glorious victories of our armed forces and people have given rise to a new situation on the battlefield, which is particularly favourable to us and unfavourable to the enemy.

Never before have the enemy forces — American, satellite and puppet alike — been so weak as now in terms of organization, morale, effectives and material bases as well. A very important part of their troops has been either wiped out or disbanded. A big quantity of their matériel has been destroyed. The morale of their soldiers is sinking and has reached a new low.
As a result of their heavy losses in combat or from desertion and disbandment, troop shortage in both the American and puppet forces has become more acute than ever before. Apart from those completely wiped out, all the remaining American units are now understrength. Many U.S. marine battalions have only half of their effective left. The 173rd Paratroop Brigade has lost two-thirds of its men. The 1st and 25th Divisions, the 1st Airmobile Cavalry Division and Division Americal have suffered heavy losses.

All the puppet units are more seriously understrength. At least 30 per cent of their regular battalions have either been wiped out or heavily decimated, among them 8 of the 15 general-reserve battalions. 4 paratroop battalions—the 2nd, 5th, 7th and 9th—have by now about 100 men each. Some divisions such as the 1st, 5th and 7th have been heavily thinned out. Some regiments and dozens of battalions are deprived of their fighting capacity. At present, the puppets are hastily drafting the youth and pushing them to the battlefield. Obviously, instead of increasing the fighting power of their troops, this will only render them more disparate. The Americans are dispatching one more brigade and one more regiment to South Viet Nam but how can they hope to extinguish a bush fire with a few cupfuls of water?

Never has our force been so powerful as now, both at the front and in the rear, in number as well as in quality.

In particular, our three kinds of armed forces have made a leaping advance in fighting capacity. More
clearly than ever before, the Liberation Armed Forces have shown their noble traditions of boundless loyalty, valiancy and invincibility. Our armed forces and people are excellent in fighting in the jungle, in the plains as well as in towns, in attacking enemy airfields, ports, rear bases, storages and communication lines. Courageous and resourceful in offensive, they are intrepid and staunch in defensive even in the plains and towns. They can mount successful attacks and neatly repel enemy counter-attacks; they can make skilful use of the surprise factor to assail the adversary, and at the same time can detect the weak points of their defence to hit them and win victory. All the three kinds of our armed forces have grown up and been co-ordinating their actions harmoniously. Our infantry, artillery, engineer, liaison, transport and other services have displayed high valiancy, consummate skill, close unity and splendid co-ordination. A new development has been recorded with regard to our capacity of co-ordinating attacks on different battlefields. Their ability to fight continually just as their combat tempo and effectiveness have also been raised. Big progress has been made at all levels in combining fighting with building up forces, and as a result, the more we fight, the stronger our three kinds of armed forces become.

Never has the enemy's field array been so confused and so 'bad' as now. Their losing position, passiveness and weakening is in a more critical situation than ever. After sustaining bitter setbacks during two 'dry season counter-offensives,' and in the course of the implementation of their "two-prong" plan in 1967, since the
beginning of this year the U.S. aggressors have been gradually switching to the defensive on all battlefields and forced to carry on their extremely perfidious “two-prong” plan. But the simultaneous offensive and uprising of our armed forces and people have completely upset their strategic plans and their field array. Their 1968 plans and schemes have gone bankrupt even before they could be put into practice. The enemy’s defence lines have been broken. They are compelled to pull back their forces from other places to cope with our attacks in areas much more important for them, that is, the towns and cities, and a number of communication arteries. The war has flared up in the very last dens of the enemy. Their battle-ground which has already been narrowed down, is split up, encircled and assailed from all sides.

Never have our winning position, our initiative and offensive been so developed and so steady as now. Our frontline is encircling the enemy’s key positions so far regarded by them as the most secure. We have thrust deep into their rear in the cities, including Saigon and Hue, and dragged a wide net around other urban centres. Behind our frontline lies a solid rear which embraces the vast rural, jungle and mountain areas controlled by the people, and constitutes a source of inexhaustible strength for us to win victory.

Never have the enemy experienced so serious a political decline and decay as now. The “constitutional government” of the clique of traitors is controlling nobody and is like a flickering light in a hurricane. The so-called “People’s National Salvation Front” recently rigged up by the U.S. imperialists in the part of Saigon
still under their temporary control cannot fool anybody nor conceal the isolation of the traitors who were notorious henchmen of the French colonialists and Japanese fascists, and are now lackeys of the U.S. imperialists. Whatever camouflage it may be given this organization remains an anti-popular and abortive creature. Genuine patriots do not pay attention to it and hold it in utter contempt. This is also a political move closely in line with the U.S. imperialists' policy of changing horse midstream.

No better than the clique of traitors, the U.S. aggressors have become more and more isolated in face of public opinion at home and in the world. The sharp contradictions within the ranks of the U.S. aggressors, the bitter conflicts within the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors and the serious contradictions between the U.S. aggressors on the one hand and the puppets and satellites on the other, have become more and more acute. The aggressive will of the U.S. aggressors is weakening.

Never has the unrivaled political and moral superiority of our armed forces and people reached such a high and been turned into so powerful a material force as now.

Our armed forces and people, millions united like one, are living exciting days of victory. They are filled with confidence and more determined than ever to rise up and defeat the enemy.

Millions of people have courageously taken to the streets to confront the enemy and set up combat units equipped with captured weapons. Our political army has become a mighty force and is more experienced than ever.
Our people and the Liberation Armed Forces are united like blood-sealed brothers who are supporting one another in the fight till complete victory. The Liberation Armed Forces are bringing into full play their fine nature and tradition, that of an army born of the people and serving the people. This army-people solidarity guarantees our victory and constitutes a source of fright for the enemy. The radiant prestige of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the organizer and promoter of all victories of the South Vietnamese people, is on the rise. The workers, peasants and other labouring people are playing the role of shock-units in the current offensive and uprising of our entire people.

Personalities, intellectuals, students, pupils, youths, women, businessmen and people of other walks of life are actively contributing to the cause of national independence.

The “Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces” in Saigon, the “National, Democratic and Peace Alliance” in Hue, and many other patriotic organizations have come into being and are siding with the entire people to step up the struggle for national liberation.

Our kith and kin in the North are supporting us with might and main and constantly encouraging the struggle of our armed forces and people.

Our people’s resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation is enjoying the warmest and greatest sympathy and support from the whole socialist camp.
and progressive mankind, including the progressive American people.

We are being provided with the most favourable conditions and the firmest bases to achieve our aims.

Our position and strength is growing like the radiant rising sun.

The enemy position and strength is flickering like a dying flame.

We shall certainly win complete victory.

The enemy are doomed to complete failure.

The U.S. invaders and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors are still stubbornly resorting to many wicked schemes and tricks. The war remains hard and fierce.

At this hour decisive for the fate of our nation, the Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, on orders from the Presidium of the National Front for Liberation Central Committee, solemnly calls on the whole armed forces and people to push ahead on the impetus of their victories, to overcome all obstacles and hardships, boldly trample on the adversary in their rush forward, to attack and rise up unremittingly, wipe out as many enemies as possible, smash the puppet army and overthrow the puppet administration with a view to frustrating the U.S. aggressive will, completely liberating the South, contributing to the defence of the North and proceeding towards the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

Let all cadres and fighters of the Liberation Armed Forces forge a thorough, unswerving stand in combat, the strongest determination and fighting spirit; let them
continually attack and pursue the enemy and repel all their counter-attacks; let them constantly consolidate and develop their strength, wipe out as many adverse forces, as possible, strive to score successes daily, hourly so as to win complete victory.

Dear compatriots in rural and urban areas!

Let our compatriots in towns resolutely rise up and valiantly struggle for their vital rights, help one another and tide over difficulties caused by the enemy, be resolved to crush all their schemes and activities aimed at dividing, terrorizing and massacring them.

Let all of you resolutely stand up, kill wicked agents, break up the enemy's grip, overthrow the Thieu-Ky traitors and wrest power for the people, fight shoulder to shoulder with the Liberation Armed Forces. Everything for the front, everything for victory over the U.S. aggressors.

Dear young friends,

Enthusiastically join the militia, self-defence units, regional troops and regular forces. This is a golden opportunity for you to dedicate your strength, talent and mind to the accomplishment of our task and avenge our fatherland and your own families. Let those who are still living in the areas under the enemy's temporary control resolutely smash their draft scheme.

Officers and men, policemen and officials in the puppet army and administration,

The fate of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique is sealed; our people are determined to make
them repay their enormous blood debt. Dissociate yourselves from the gloomy lot of the invaders and their valets. Rise up, stage mutinies and achieve feats to save the fatherland and yourselves.

Dear fighters and compatriots!

Our people have a history of four thousand years during which they have written brilliant pages in their resistance to foreign invasion; possessed of glorious traditions, they fought against stronger and more numerous enemies and won splendid victories such as at Bach Dang, Chi Lang, Dong Da and Dien Bien Phu.

Over the past ten years South Viet Nam, the Brass Wall of our Fatherland, has repeatedly got the better of the U.S. aggressors. Clearly, they and their lackeys are doomed to complete defeat.

The charge is being sounded all over our country.
The Truong Son Range is shaking.
The Mekong River is surging.
Fighters and compatriots, heroically march forward!
Refusing to live in humiliation and misery under the rule of the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, and burning with hatred at the enemy's monstrous crimes, the people in various cities and towns of South Viet Nam, in close co-ordination with the People's Liberation Armed Forces and other patriotic armed forces, have stood up as one man to attack the strongholds of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors and wrest back their sacred national rights.

At the end of their tether, the U.S. aggressors and Thieu-Ky frenziedly thrash about and perpetrate still more bloody crimes in the hope of stamping out the South Vietnamese people's patriotic tide.

They have barbarously bombed heavily populated areas, destroying thousands of houses, schools, churches, pagodas, temples and age-old cultural and historical