LE DUAN URGES PROTRACTED ANTI-U.S. STRUGGLE

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 29 December 1966--S

(Comrade Le Duan speech "made recently" during a visit to the first company of the antiaircraft unit in charge of protecting the capital, entitled "Saving the country is the holy task of all our people"--recorded)

(Text) Comrades, today in visiting you I have learned that your company has had glorious traditions since Dien Bien Phu. In present struggle against the enemy's war of destruction, you comrades have performed many good achievements. In the name of the party Central Committee, I warmly acclaim you comrades.

Now all our people throughout the country are fighting the U.S. imperialists. In the south, our compatriots must continuously cope with an all-out war which is developing very fiercely. Here we have only to counterattack their war of destruction. Generally speaking, our entire country is in a state of war, is fighting against the aggression of U.S. imperialism, the leading imperialists.

This struggle is shaking the entire world because it is generally known that Vietnam is a newly independent country whose economy is poor, whose industry is underdeveloped, but which must resist the most violent and richest imperialist. Our friends and honest people the world over are worried at the realization that our self-defense struggle is very difficult and arduous. But our southern compatriots have been fighting the U.S. imperialists for years. Moreover, they have successfully frustrated the latter's political and military plots and caused the bankruptcy of their special war strategy. For more than four years, southern troops and people have captured the initiative in attacking the enemy. After the Binh Gia victory, southern liberation troops captured the initiative and won victory after victory.

The U.S. imperialists have mobilized a great force from their ground, navy, and air forces used their most modern weapons, except atomic weapons, and resorted to all cruel and mean measures to kill our compatriots. But the obstinate U.S. strategists must admit that they cannot defeat the 14 million South Vietnamese people. This proves that although the U.S. imperialists have much money and many weapons, their material power is not inexhaustible. Although our material force is smaller than that of the United States, we have greater political and military power. Our people have fought and won. This proves that we have our own strength.

With the hope of avoiding defeat in South Vietnam, U.S. bandits have used their planes to attack North Vietnam. But they have made a wrong calculation. Their bombs and bullets cannot shake our southern (as heard--ed.) people's determination to fight and win. In the south, they are being bogged down increasingly deeply and suffering increasingly heavy defeats.

Their special war being defeated, U.S. bandits undertook a new escalation step. They introduced U.S. expeditionary troops and troops from a number of their satellites to directly participate in the war, thus turning their special war into a local war in the south. They aggressively stated that they would launch a strategic counteroffensive, would crush the liberation troops, but realities on the southern battlefield have rejected this boast.
For the Van Tuong battle, they used 8,000 troops, supported by planes, tanks, and armored vehicles, to encircle and try to exterminate a unit of southern liberation troops on a small coastal battlefield. As far as military strength was concerned, U.S. troops were eight or nine times more numerous than liberation troops. If weapon efficiency and firepower were also taken into consideration, the enemy was scores of times stronger than the liberation troops.

Yet U.S. troops were unable to wipe out a single small unit of the liberation troops. They even lost 900 men. Liberation troops won a brilliant victory at Van Tuong because they were resolute and courageous and, at the same time, clever in military art. The enemy himself had to recognize the marksmanship and camouflaging ability of the liberation troops, whose marksmanship reached such a level that they could shoot through the slit of the observation turret of a moving armored vehicle and who were so clever in camouflaging themselves that even at scores of meters the enemy could not discover them.

Bravery and intelligence are two factors which created our people's strength for the struggle against foreign aggression, created typical features of the people's war in the south, a fighting method of a small and weak nation which is constantly determined to fight and defeat much stronger enemies. This defeat of the U.S. expeditionary troops' first battle on the southern battlefield as well as their defeats during the war of destruction against the north have laid bare the weakness of the U.S. imperialists and allowed us to assert that our troops and people in both zones are fully able to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors.

Now our youths are eagerly achieving three readinesses, and the great majority of them want to join the army and save the country. This attitude of theirs is very correct. Saving the country is the sacred duty of all people. Many comrades here are young and do not know what a slave's life is like, thus, they may not understand the sorrow of those who have lost their country. Losing the country is losing everything, losing freedom, and independence, losing a comfortable and happy life. If one is tortured materially and morally, one has no reason to live. That is why our people have risen to recapture the right to live, being determined not to remain slaves.

Now the U.S. imperialists use bombs and bullets to kill our compatriots and trample on our fatherland. We are determined never to submit to them, never to endure suffering again. We are determined to fight and win in order to safeguard independence and freedom, build a comfortable and happy life, and build our fatherland into a rich and beautiful Vietnam.

Intense patriotism, deep love for the compatriots, close union with the laboring people and those of the same class who are exploited and oppressed, and implacable hatred for the aggressors and countrysiders form the basis of our revolutionary heroism. To recapture the right to live for our Vietnamese people, for the laboring people is the noble meaning of our struggle.

Our people will defeat the U.S. bandits. In the future, our fatherland will be rich and strong, our people will be happy. In this glorious work there is the contribution of your blood and sweat. We are very proud of the noble meaning of the revolutionary work we are undertaking. This is also the reason for life and death of revolutionaries.
Man must die once. Generally speaking, in 20, 30, or 40 years we will be old and die. Our people's work, liberating the country, building socialism and communism, is much greater, compared to the life of each of us, and will last forever, hundreds of thousands of years, from generation to generation. How beautiful and grandiose such revolutionary work is. To live and fight for this great revolutionary work and to devote the most of our strength and intelligence to this task bring glory to all of us, to you comrades. Only after having understood this noble reason for life can we build up the determination to fight staunchly, despite sacrifices and hardships, to defeat the enemy.

By fighting against the U.S. aggressors, our people not aim only at recapturing their holy national rights, but also at protecting the entire socialist camp and contributing to stepping up the revolutionary movement of the proletariat and the oppressed people the world over. The U.S. imperialists' defeat in Vietnam will be a very great defeat, causing the bankruptcy of their worldwide strategy. That is why the U.S. bandits have resorted to all the most horrible war tricks to repress our southern compatriots' patriotic struggle. In the future, they may introduce hundreds of thousands more U.S. troops to stick to and stay in the south. They have also plotted to extend the war to the north and all of Indochina, but all their efforts are desperate and will be unable to save them from the issueless tunnel.

The U.S. imperialists have atomic bombs, but if they use them, they will follow the path to suicide. Atomic bombs are dangerous weapons, but nowadays, the U.S. imperialists no longer have the monopoly on atomic weapons, because the USSR and China also have atomic bombs. Moreover, the force of hundreds of millions of revolutionary people who are rising up throughout the world is stronger than atomic weapons. Revolutionary people the world over will never let the U.S. imperialists drop their atomic bombs on their heads, but will rise up as a bloc to crush and bury the U.S. imperialists and their clique. This is the path to be followed necessarily by history. No reactionary force can prevent it from following this path.

Our country is a small one with scarce land and sparse population. But developing the antiaggression traditions of our ancestors and the experiences of the previous nine-year resistance, with the blood, bones, and intelligence of our community our people have in a creative way developed the people's war to its highest level and shaped it in various forms. Starting from a small and weak team, we have built a strong army and used it to defeat a very violent and armed-to-the-teeth enemy. Thus, our struggle can be a useful lesson for the revolution of the oppressed people who are in the same situation as we are. To defeat the U.S. bandits, our army must be strong both politically and militarily. Political strength is the basis of military strength. To speak of politics is to speak of ideology and organization. The army's organization must insure the party's absolute leadership and insure unanimous thought and unified action. Therefore, one basic point is that in the army we must lay the strongest emphasis on democracy and discipline. The discipline of a revolutionary army is very strict, but it is voluntary. Therefore internal democracy must be exercised to the greatest extent. The better internal democracy is the more voluntary and the stricter discipline will become.

I have just talked about building the army. As far as our line of revolutionary struggle is concerned, political strength is not the only basis of military strength. In the southern revolution, political struggle has become a form of struggle conducted simultaneously with the military struggle.
Political force is one of the decisive forces for vanquishing the enemy. In an army there are, of course, cadres, combatants, commanders, and subordinates. Therefore, it is necessary to have standing orders, rules, titles, and jurisdiction. Yet, the relations among the cadres and combatants must be built on comradeship, unity in life as well as in death, mutual love and esteem, sharing the sweet and the bitter, and sharing joys and sorrows. Cadres must love and respect combatants; and combatants must respect and love cadres, because both the cadres and the combatants share the same aim of annihilating the aggressors and saving the country and pursue the same goal of serving the people and the revolution. In a large community, there are inevitable differences in character and behavior; some are good, others are bad. But the important thing is that if the whole community is good, each member of this community will also be good.

Democracy must come from one's heart and must not be formalistic. Comrades in arms are brothers and kith and kin. If collective life is constantly and actually filled with these sentimental feelings, when we go to battle everyone, from the superior to the subordinate levels, 100, 1,000, or 10,000 people as one will be of the same mind.

I have learned that the state of democracy and discipline in our army is very satisfactory. However, I think that I must constantly repeat that democracy and discipline are necessary for the survival of a revolutionary army and are a guarantee for our army to acquire strength. If ideology is the soul of the army, then internal democracy and discipline are a kind of cement binding the army into a unified body as hard as steel and as firm as brass. To insure effective combat under all circumstances, it is necessary for you comrades to train yourselves in hardships. Only through hardships will man become mature and more rigid. When meeting with hardships and difficulties, if one valiantly endures and resolutely overcomes them, he will gain wisdom and strength. In any field one must train himself in hardships and have the courage to take all hardships lightly. Now you comrades still have mats and beds when you sleep and still have rice and meat for your meals. But in a different situation, on a different battlefield, you comrades would probably have to sleep on the ground on the dew, eat rice with white salt, or eat wild potatoes instead of rice month after month. All of these hardships are surmountable. In the south, there have been times when units of the Liberation Armed Forces went without food for four or five consecutive days, and yet, they continued to pursue the enemy. And there are liaison combatants who have lived in the remote mountains and jungles for years, have worn out their feet on the desolate paths, and wrestled with starvation, cold, and disease. Yet, they perseveringly continued the performance of their tasks, and firmly maintained communications.

The foregoing is the brilliant example of revolutionary heroism. I am sure that you have read the story about Comrade Nguyen Duc Thuan, who was imprisoned by the U.S.-Diem clique for eight years and succeeded in escaping the enemy prison. In the hell on earth in South Vietnam, compatriots and comrades face death every day and endure innumerable hardships and dangers. Your hardships are still insignificant, although you stand ready at the batteries day and night or participate in long march drills during which you have to carry heavy burdens.
The most painful thing for Comrade Thuan and other comrades in prison was that though their hatred for the enemy sometimes went beyond their control, they were powerless. They wanted to strike at the enemy, but they were unable to do so.

As for you now, despite difficulties and hardships, you are happy because you are free and have in hand weapons to strike back at the enemy.

I know that many of you, though not afraid of death, cannot endure hardships. As a human being, everyone has a self-preservation instinct. When our revolutionary sentiments run low, when reason fails to prevail, when faced with difficulties and dangers, individualistic feelings will rise and we will yield or succumb in a fit of loss of vigilance.

That is why it is necessary to constantly improve the spirit of enduring hardships and the spirit of sacrificing one’s life for the revolution and to constantly engage in the ideological struggle by making criticism and self-criticism in order to eliminate all weak points and gaps through which individualism can infiltrate. Your comrades must carry out President Ho’s teaching to be loyal to the party and people, fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies. Our party is staunchly and absolutely loyal to the interests of the nation and those of the working class. The line of socialist revolution in the north and the line of national democratic revolution in the south are correct. Thanks to these correct lines along with the boundless sacrifice and wonderful bravery of our troops and people from north to south, we have created for ourselves a great power and achieved glorious victories.

Our party is the organized vanguard team of the Vietnamese working class and, at the same time, the genuine representative of the interests of the entire working masses and the interests of all the Vietnamese people, because the objectives of our party’s struggle are achieving independence and freedom and abolishing exploitation, sufferings, poverty, and backwardness. To be loyal to the party is to be loyal to the interests of the working class and laboring people and to the interests of our people and fatherland; that is, to resolutely struggle to liberate the south, protect the north, unify the fatherland, and construct socialism in order to turn our country into a rich and civilized country.

The party is concerned with the people, the country, everyone. That is why to be loyal to the party one must be loyal to the people. These two aspects are closely connected and consistent with each other. Loyalty to the party and people is the stand of the working class. You comrades must base your training on this stand in order to continuously heighten the troops’ combativity.

The present anti-U.S. national salvation struggle is a very large drilling field. You comrades join the army to fight the enemy, and, after defeating him, you will return home and participate in economic building. We ardently wish for peace to build our fatherland, but the U.S. imperialists have brought war and forced us to take up weapons to defend ourselves. Thus, we fight not for the sake of fighting, but to build an increasingly rich and beautiful country and insure for our people a comfortable and happy life. Our country’s resources are very rich. Our country’s land is very fertile. Our people are very industrious and intelligent. In the present era, we have the capacity to quickly enter into modern science and technique. There is no reason why our people should live forever in poverty and backwardness.
On the basis of developing agriculture, we will achieve industrialization step by step. With a developed industry, we will have more conditions to exploit the country's potentialities in order to firmly solve the eating, clothing, housing, and consumption problems of the people and improve the living conditions of people from all strata.

Now our peasants are struggling to produce five tons of paddy per hectare. Even under war circumstances, we can achieve this goal. In the near future, our fields and villages will be rebuilt, even more and more orderly. The countryside will have brick houses and electricity. Production tasks there will be gradually carried out by machines, from bottom to top. Industry will be able to supply the national economic branches with new technical equipment and will produce sufficient consumer goods for our people. Once our material and technical bases of socialism reach a certain level, our life in rural as well as urban areas will be changed basically, and our future will be beautiful and brilliant.

The majority of the comrades in the army will stand in the ranks of the builders of socialism and will form the core force of this great army. What you comrades have learned and acquired in the army now is very necessary for the forthcoming task of national reconstruction. In the future, you comrades will apply your offensive spirit and heroism to production and economic building. With revolutionary feelings boiling in our hearts, with the revolutionary will to move mountains and fill seas, and with the spirit of sacrificing our personal interests for the sake of the great cause, our soul and intelligence will become brighter. Only then will we dare to attack, create, and combat poverty and backwardness in order to build a new life.

Discipline in production is also an enlightened discipline which is based on the spirit of mastership over the community. It is impossible to perfect new production relations, it is impossible to step up the economic building if the mastership over the community of workers and cooperative peasants is not insured and if labor discipline and production discipline are not improved. Commandistic and paternalistic attitudes hamper (industrial) creativeness and restrict their revolutionary enthusiasm. The liberalist and scattering character of small and individualistic production and handicrafts also creates great obstacles to the building of a socialist and modern production. Democratic and disciplinarian activities which you comrades have been building in the army are consistent with the organizational and disciplinarian character and the collective life which a great industry requires. With the army's sense of organization, disciplinarian habits, and democratic manners, you comrades will actively contribute to the management of our socialist economy. You comrades are studying hard to heighten your cultural level and keep a firm hold on military science and techniques.

In a war, man and morale are the decisive factors. Armaments and technology are very important, but we treat with contempt the technology of the imperialists, the aggressors. However, once we have mastered our own destiny, the proletarians and working people must know how to use modern science and technology to enhance their ability to defend their fatherland.
Science and technology are the property of mankind. In building the economy, we must pay due attention to technology, grasp science and technology, and must unceasingly consolidate material and technical foundations to develop the production force, the decisive factor for the progress of a society. At present, second level education is common in the army; in other armed services or branches, the academic standards are even higher. This is a very important base for the venture into science and technology. Comrade Song Hao and I as well as a great number of old revolutionary cadres did not have the opportunity to study as much as you do now. (Accompanying Comrade Le Duan on that day was Comrade Song Hao, chief of the Political Department.) You must study with enthusiasm, study more, and study forever, as Lenin advised. To drill one's ideas and improve one's virtue is also to study. However, you must learn science and technology to handle modern weapons and equipment more efficiently and accurately. This scientific and technological knowledge also constitutes an invaluable investment which will help you to carry out the technological revolution in order to accelerate the rate of economic building and production development later on. The knowledge that you have acquired in the army will also help you to shape yourselves into new men. I am confident that if you possess an ardent, revolutionary enthusiasm, have a strong determination to fight, improve your ideology, virtue, and behavior, acquire a good education and technological knowledge, and build sincere friendship and comradeship, not only will you become good soldiers, but in the future you will also become faithful revolutionaries and talented workers, and, at the same time, you will become good husbands, sons, fathers or brothers who love their wives and children, and know how to shape their families in accordance with the new ethical standards of socialism.

You are here to defend the capital. The capital is the heart, the nerve center of the entire country. Therefore, your tasks are very great and important. You must be sure that whenever the enemy comes, you will hit him, defeat him, and deal him stunning blows, making him panic-stricken. In order to meet this condition, you must make more careful preparations, must train more often, must have stronger determination, and must further improve your combat readiness without relaxing your efforts even for one minute or one second. Do not think that the enemy dares not come. You should not be impatient and do not fear that you will have no chance to fight the enemy. You must be determined to wait while striving to train and educate yourselves in order to be better prepared for combat. The greater efforts spent in training, the less waste in flesh and blood will be incurred in combat. The provinces have won resounding victories against the enemy. I hope that the Hanoi capital will win glorious feats of arms. My best wishes for your victories.

VPA MESSAGES PROTEST U.S. RAIDS OVER DRV

30 December Raids

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1612 GMT 31 December 1966--B

(Text) Hanoi, 31 December--On 30 December 1966, many U.S. aircraft taking off from the Seventh Fleet and from U.S. bases in South Vietnam and Thailand intruded into DRV airspace and bombed and strafed many populated areas and economic establishments in the Vinh Linh region and Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hao, Nam Ha, and Son La provinces. U.S. warships carried out a renewed shelling of a number of populated areas in the Quang Trach district, Quang Binh Province.