The VC observed that the conflict between Thieu Ky and the opposition forces in South Vietnam could unnecessarily prolong the war. As a result, the VC cadre were requested to achieve the following objectives as part of immediate actions to be accomplished:

- Appropriate maintain, develop and make use of the enemy's internal conflict and take advantage of the golden opportunity offered to fight for time necessary to promote the People's struggle movement against the VIETMINH government. Also undertake the following endeavors:

  - Initiate an armed forces movement to rise and take control of the country side; develop the guerillas and guerrilla warfare in all areas and on a broad front.
  - Concentrate all combat capability towards the disruption and disintegration of enemy troops and government.
  - Step up the the struggle movements in towns and urgently develop the political and armed agents to take advantage of the enemy's weakness and eradicate the remnants of reactionaries.
  - Urgently pull young men out of the struggle movements to develop the VC force and requisition, purchase and collect food supplies for quick movement and concealment.
  - Investigate the situation to attack the American forces locations and American-Vietnamese forces during movement along the communication roads.

(H P E I):

Circular from the Current Affairs Region (Party) Committee

Circular No 25, dated 15 March 1966, from the Current Affairs Region (Party) Committee, copied by the 5011 Administrative Staff, addressed to all local, province and district committees, units and (Party) Civil Affairs sections of various branches. It disseminated combat information and VC victories to the provinces of Quang Ngai, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, So Ma, Chu Lai, Quy Nhon, and Western Highland. It instructed all of these to
to review their combat plans and learn from experiences. In order to develop the people’s highest determination to fight and win over the American - RVN troops. The circular urgently asked for the sending of relief to the areas which suffered most from the recent American - Korean - RVN sweep operations conducted in the Region from January through mid March 1966. This help was needed to stabilize the situation and defeat the American plans for the dry season.

VC cadre were also instructed to step up the People’s face-to-face political struggle against the local RN government authorities in such a way as to neutralize the American-RVN operations in all areas within the Region and thus minimize the people’s loss of lives and property. This will enable the latter to continue making substantial contributions to the VC revolution.

The following was the VC information on their victories from January to mid March 1966:

During the above period of time, the VC conducted over 800 operations that resulted in the following enemy casualties:

- 23,000 enemy soldiers were killed, wounded and captured, including 1500 Americans and 2000 South Koreans.
- 5 battalions completely destroyed, including 3 American battalions.
- 20 companies exterminated, including 13 American and 7 South Korean.
- Over 800 weapons of various types captured.
- 459 aircraft downed and destroyed.
- 50 armored cars burned.

Particularly in Quang Ngai, Quang Ngai, Khanh Din and Phu Yen Provinces, the number of American and South Korean troops killed amounted to 16,200 men, including 10,000 Americans. Not mentioned were 5 other American battalions and 13 companies plus 1 South Korean company which were also wiped out.

The American Air Cav. Division stationed in Khanh Din also lost 2 battalions and 3 companies.

The 3rd Marine Brigade in Son Tinh also had severe losses. It lost 1 battalion and 3 companies.

300 aircraft were downed in those areas.

(R P B I)

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