

Special Communique on— Historic Tet Offensive

The Communique said: "In the six days from the night of January 29 to February 4, the Liberation Armed Forces and people of South Vietnam wiped out more than 50,000 enemy troops, including over 10,000 U.S. aggressor troops, and disintegrated 200,000 puppet troops. Many U.S. and puppet army units were annihilated, including three armoured regiments and 29 battalions.

"Our armed forces and people mounted surprise attacks on 30 airfields of the Americans and puppets, including those at Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa, destroyed more than 1,500 enemy planes and over 4,000 enemy cars, and sank or damaged 50 warships and gunboats of the enemy.

"In response to the call to battle issued by the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the Liberation armed forces, together with the local people and various kinds of patriotic armed forces, launched fierce attacks on all fronts on the night of January 29 or in the small hours of January 30. The people in cities and villages that were held by the enemy for the time being rose in battle simultaneously. With the force of an avalanche, the 14 million people in South Vietnam have advanced courageously, performed spectacular exploits in fighting such as never known before in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and brought the revolution in the south to a new high tide.

"The armed forces and the people in South Vietnam mounted attacks and rose in struggle in six major cities—Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon and Da Lat—and in virtually all provincial capitals and cities. Up to February 4, they launched extensive attacks and struggles against 37 provincial capitals and cities, hundreds of district cities and towns and the vast countryside that was occupied by the enemy for the time being.

"A great number of top military and administrative organisations of the U.S.-puppet clique in various cities such as the U.S. "embassy" the residence of the puppet president, the headquarters of the general staff of the puppet army, the command of the puppet navy, the command of the U.S. marines, and the general headquarters of the puppet police were attacked by the

South Vietnam P.L.A.F. Command issues special communique no. 2 —

The unprecedented spectacular victories won by the dauntless South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in sweeping attacks on all fronts—attacks characterized by close coordination between armed forces and civilians, between cities and countryside, and from within and outside—have been reviewed by the command of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces in its special Communique No. 2 issued on Feb. 7, 1968.

We are reprinting in full the text of an article which appeared in Hsinhua February 8, 1968 on this historic communique.

Liberation Armed Forces and people. Attacks were also mounted against the commands of all the four military sectors of the puppet army (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th), the commands of eight of the 11 divisions of the puppet army (1st, 2nd, 23rd, 25th, 7th, 9th, 21st and 18th), the headquarters of two special sectors of the puppet army (the special sector in Saigon and the 24th special sector in Kom Tun), the commands of 15 puppet regiments and two U.S. field commands, etc.

"The South Vietnamese army and people attacked 30 enemy airfields including 11 of the 14 major airfields of the U.S.-puppet clique: the Da Nang, Chu Lai, Nha Trang, Dong Tac, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, Phu Bai, Qui Nhon, Pleiku, Can Tho and Phan Rang airfields. The other 19 airfields attacked were those at Don Ha, Ai Tu, Dac Can, Hue, Tay Loc, Nuoc Man, Ban Me Thout, An Khe, Bong Son, Kom Tum, Dong Ba Dien, Vinh Long, Soc Trang, Ba Xuyen, Vi Thanh, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, My Tho, and Dong Nhu. Altogether more than 1,500 enemy planes were destroyed at these airfields.

"The South Vietnamese army and people also disrupted various land and water communication lines of the enemy, completely paralysing such important arteries as highways 1, 4, and 14.

"During this period, the South Vietnamese army and people destroyed more than 4,000 enemy military vehicles of all kinds including large numbers of tanks and armoured cars. They also sank or destroyed 50 enemy warships and gunboats.

"All enemy radio stations in the six major cities and many wired radio stations in various cities were destroyed.

Many enemy logistic bases, dumps and depots for strategic stockpiling were also assaulted. The South Vietnamese army and people captured or destroyed millions of tons of ammunition, oil and all kinds of war instruments.

"According to initial reports, the South Vietnamese army and people wiped out altogether more than 50,000 enemy troops including over 10,000 U.S. troops and disintegrated 200,000 puppet troops. Many U.S. and puppet army units were annihilated, including three armoured regiments (the No. 7 puppet armoured regiment and two U.S. armoured regiments stations in Hue and Phu Bai) and 29 battalions (including 9 U.S. battalions and a battalion of Australian lackey troops). Many units of puppet troops were disintegrated, including 3 regiments, 12 infantry battalions, 1 armoured sub-regiment and 4 military training centres.

"The South Vietnamese armed forces and people captured tens of thousands of arms of all kinds and destroyed hundreds of guns of different calibre."

The communique said that fighting in close coordination with the various revolutionary armed forces, the people of all strata in various places rose in action to overthrow the local regimes of traitors and running dogs, smashed the enemy rule, wiped out those notorious puppet officials whose hands were stained with the blood of the people, freed more than 20,000 people from enemy prisons and established revolutionary regimes.

The Communique said that in the revolutionary storm, the political and armed forces of the people have grown very rapidly in size and strength, millions of people, men and women, young and old, irrespective of difference in political beliefs, religious creed and nationality, have united as one, struggled vigorously and contributed their part to the cause of the liberation of the motherland. The various alliances of national and peace forces in Saigon, the alliance of national, democratic and peace forces in Hue and various other revolutionary organizations came into being and took up the glorious tasks of the nation. The people's liberation armed forces have given full play to their tradition of being determined to fight and to win. Various armed self-defence units, the militia-guerrillas and various insurgent contingents have emerged. Many patriotic armed outfits have come into being. With arms captured from the enemy, they fought side by side with the people against the enemy and for national salvation.

Great commotion arose within the rank and file of the puppet army and the puppet admin-

istration. Many officers and men and even whole units of the puppet army and many functionaries of the puppet regime have crossed over to the side of the people in response to the call of the motherland. Preliminary reports said that puppet soldiers rose en masse and gave up 169 strongholds and posts in eleven provinces alone and joined the ranks of the revolutionaries. Patriotic soldiers in the puppet army who oppose the U.S. aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu-Nguyen Cao Ky clique have set up organizations of their own.

In face of the crushing military attacks by the revolutionary armed forces of all categories and the lashing storms of struggle of the people rising everywhere, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys have suffered disastrous defeats in all fields, militarily and politically, strategically and tactically, and have been driven into dire straits. They have been pinned down everywhere and beaten to the quick in all key places. The U.S. aggressors have been forced to scatter their forces, with their combat strength weakened immensely. The puppet army is fast disintegrating. The corrupt and decadent puppet regime is falling apart. The foundations on which the neo-colonialist policy of the United States is based in South Vietnam are crumbling at their very root.

The victories won in the past few days by our armed forces and people are enormous, all-round victories of utmost importance. They have made it clear that the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces are invincible. Their invincible might comes from the unity of the entire population rallying millions as one man with a common will under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation. This testifies to the joint might of people's war, the incomparably rich and creative forms of fighting and struggle, and the various armed and political forces which have fought brilliantly, fiercely and extensively and have won spectacular victories. These victories have also shown that our position is more secure and our forces become stronger than ever. Our armed forces and people have given full play to their initiative in attack. They dashed forward in unison. The more they fought, the greater their victories. They attacked without let-up in the flush of their past victories, score ever bigger ones and will go on fighting until complete victory is achieved. Our moral, organizational and other strength becomes bigger in the course of the fighting. We develop our own strength while fighting. We are fully capable of defeating the enemy under any circumstances.

The Communique said that these victories are inseparable from the sincere support of our brothers and friends in the five continents who are giving us energetic assistance and

encouragement.

The Communique said that the great victories won by the armed forces and people in the south have also shown that although U.S. imperialism possesses a huge aggressor force with 1,200,000 men and although it has resorted to all the most brutal and crafty means, it still finds itself bewildered and helpless before the marvelous striking power of our armed forces and people in the south. The failure of the United States is obvious. Even if it carries on its last-ditch struggle obstinately and madly and increases its troops and means of war, it cannot possibly put an end to its dangerously awkward predicament and is doomed to complete defeat.

"In execution of the order of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, the command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces warmly commends the matchless, courageous fighting spirit and outstanding ability and talent of all the cadres and fighters of the main-force units, regional armed forces and militia-guerrilla units, which have continuously dealt such heavy blows at the enemy on all the battlefields that he is scared out of his wits. It warmly commends all the compatriots for their love of the motherland and the nation and their unyielding spirit, compatriots who have stood up with a common resolve and, together with the various revolutionary armed forces, attacked without let-up and

won one victory after another. It warmly welcomes and praises the spirit of rising in struggle of the patriotic organizations, patriotic people's groups, revolutionary armed units, insurgent army units and other revolutionary armed organizations, which, together with our compatriots and the People's Liberation Armed Forces, have performed brilliant military exploits.

"Our armed forces and people are continuing their fierce and wholly triumphant battles and are performing one spectacular feat after another."

The Communique called on all armed forces and people to bear in mind the teaching of President Ho Chi Minh: "The nearer the victory, the greater the hardships. The enemy, like a cornered beast, will react more madly. Therefore, our armed forces and people should further strengthen their solidarity, fight perseveringly, harder and without let-up, so as to win still bigger victories."

The Communique urged all the armed forces and people of Vietnam to unite as one man and continue their triumphant advance to exploit their victories and keep up the attacks on the U.S.-puppet clique, so as to wipe out still more enemy effectives, smash the U.S. imperialists' aggressive designs, crush the puppet army, overthrow the puppet regime and completely win the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.



"EVERYTHING'S OKAY—THEY NEVER REACHED THE MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE"