

LBJ LIBRARY
Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ 93-183
Document # 260

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RODROW
260
BLOC SURVEY
8 DECEMBER 1966

- 15 -

them "new criminal acts of aggression." Another domestic service commentator on the 3d, saying the raids will not succeed in frightening the people of the DRV, points out that Vietnam is helped by its socialist friends and that more and more U.S. planes are being destroyed as a result.

Moscow promptly reports the Viet Cong attacks on Tan Son Nhut airfield and on U.S. installations in Saigon, pointing to the resulting "panic" in the American command. And PRAVDA's correspondent, Shchedrov, cites the NFLSV statement that the raids were carried out in "retaliation" for the attacks on Hanoi and the bombing of the DRV "civilian population." A 7 December Moscow domestic service account of a press conference by Dang Quang Minh, the head of the NFLSV's mission in Moscow, to publicize the Front's "black book" on U.S. "chemical warfare" in South Vietnam, also quotes him as referring to the raids near Hanoi as proof of further U.S. escalation and as saying that the raid on Tan Son Nhut airfield was "revenge" for the air strike.

VC Claims Victory in "First Round" of Dry Season Campaign

Hanoi and Front media continue to describe the southern insurgents as responding triumphantly to the NFLSV Central Committee Presidium's 27 October appeal for defeat of the allied dry season offensive. A LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY communique carried by VNA on the 2d ticks off a series of alleged communist victories in the month since the appeal, claims the allies suffered 11,400 casualties in that period, and asserts that "we have won the first round" against the dry season offensive. It pictures an allied debacle in Tay Ninh and heavy allied reverses in the highlands and near the demilitarized zone.

OPERATION ATTLEBORO

Media exert particular efforts to depict Operation Attleboro in Tay Ninh Province as a major victory for the communists. A NHAN DAN editorial on the 30th hails this "glorious and highly significant victory" of the Viet Cong, says the campaign "broke the backbone" of "many elite U.S. units," resulted in some 3,000 enemy casualties, and displayed the "excellent and well coordinated fighting" by the three types of forces. An LPA roundup of the campaign carried by VNA on the 30th and statements by a representative of a regional "Liberation Armed Forces Command" quoted by LPA and carried by VNA on the 3d depict a thorough mauling of allied forces in the operation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
4/21/98

- 16 -

The most comprehensive discussion of operation Attleboro appears in a lengthy commentary under the pseudonym "Quyet Thang" broadcast by Liberation Radio on 1 and 2 December. The author claims that Attleboro, "the largest military operation thus far," constituted the "biggest, bitterest and saddest" U.S. defeat. He says that the allies had sought to destroy insurgent main forces and "warehouses" and to pacify the Tay Ninh area, but that in fact the VC waged deep and continuous attacks on allied positions. Apparently sensitive over reports of heavy communist casualties, Quyet Thang claims that the allies "failed to destroy a single platoon" of the insurgents and adds, in describing various engagements, that "all of the guerrillas were safe," that "our side was unharmed."

The author stresses the successful coordination "among the different battlefields" and says that the three types of forces fought in "smooth coordination" and displayed "good mutual support." Some defensiveness seems evident, however, in the claim that the Viet Cong won its engagements "in a dignified manner" and waged "continuous" battles on a "minor scale" while setting the stage for "major battles whenever favorable."

The author notes approvingly that regular and guerrilla units cooperate in "deeply penetrating" disputed areas to promote mass uprisings. Citing engagements in the Tay Ninh campaign in which insurgents allegedly "lured the enemy out of his bases" and then attacked, he declares that "this way is, however, insufficient," that communist forces must "penetrate deeply" into allied territory and attack enemy bases, logistic centers, and urban areas. He asserts that "we must attack the enemy not only when he advances or pauses but also when he retreats," and that the insurgents must always "promote the offensive spirit."

Unlike earlier Front comment which flatly ridiculed the assignment of ARVN forces to pacification work, this article observes soberly that this is a development of "strategic importance." But it goes on to say that pacification efforts "have been frustrated."*

U.S. TROOPS IN DELTA

Some concern over the assignment of U.S. forces to delta areas seems evident in a The Truong QUAN DOI NHAN DAN article broadcast to the South on 2 December. It declares that the delta "continues to be

* Comment on ARVN pacification efforts is discussed in the BLOC SURVEY of 25 November, page 14.