ROUND THE WORLD

All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful.

— MAO TSE-TUNG

LAOTIAN PATRIOTIC ARMY AND PEOPLE

Dry Season Victories

The brilliant victories scored by the Laotian patriotic army and people during the 1967-68 dry season prove once again the great power of people’s war.

According to a communiqué issued on June 10 by the Supreme Command of the Laotian People’s Liberation Army, from November 1967 to the end of May 1968, the Liberation Army, closely uniting with the patriotic neutralist forces and the people of all nationalities throughout the country, took the initiative and dealt the enemy incessant blows on all battlefields. Incomplete figures show they fought 940 battles and put out of action 16,212 enemy troops of whom 7,189 were killed. They captured 5,774 weapons of various types and several thousand tons of military equipment, sank or damaged 33 motor launches, shot down or destroyed on the ground 107 aircraft, blew up eight important bridges, demolished 11 ammunition depots or oil dumps and destroyed three radar stations.

During the dry season, the patriotic army and people dealt powerful blows at the mobile strategic and special forces of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys. They wiped out seven enemy battalions, disintegrated or forced to surrender 13 more, and badly mauled 32 others. In addition, they also overran 18 enemy headquarters, including the Nam Bao field headquarters and the Attopeu and Saravane sub-zone headquarters. In all, the number of enemy troops put out of action during this dry season is three times as great as for the 1966-67 dry season. It accounts for one-fourth of the Laotian Right-wing forces.

The Laotian patriotic army and people recovered many strategic places which had been taken by the enemy in “nibbling operation,” and wiped out many nests of the U.S.-fostered bandits in Sam Neua, Phong Saly and Udomsay Provinces. They have thus smashed the plan of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to use the special forces to destroy the liberated areas. Altogether 1,343 villages over 172,000 inhabitants were liberated.

These victories have completely foiled the schemes of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys who are waging a “special war” in Laos. As a result, they have become still more deeply bogged down. They have lost the strategic initiative and are on the defensive. While the enemy is faced with mounting internal contradictions and the morale of his troops is sinking, the Laotian patriotic armed forces are rapidly growing stronger in all spheres.

THAI PEOPLE’S FORCES

Brilliant Victory in Campaign To Counter “Suppression”

In a commentary on June 7, the Voice of the Thai People radio hailed the brilliant victory won by the people’s armed forces under the leadership of the Communist Party of Thailand in smashing the counter-revolutionary dry season “encirclement and suppression” campaign launched by the reactionary U.S.-Thanom clique.

According to preliminary statistics, from November last to May, the people’s forces fought more than 400 engagements, putting more than 800 enemy troops out of action, shooting down or damaging 8 enemy planes, destroying or damaging many military vehicles and capturing a number of weapons.

During these operations, the people’s forces, while smashing the enemy’s campaign, opened up new areas of activity in more than ten districts in several provinces. Today, they have extended their activity to more than 100 districts in 30 of the country’s 71 provinces.

The U.S.-Thai reactionaries were panic-stricken in face of the speedy growth of the people’s forces. They tried everything possible to put out the revolutionary flames kindled by the people. During the period from November to May, the Thanom-Prephas traitorous clique, at the instigation of U.S. imperialism, used over 60,000 troops and police armed with U.S.-supplied tanks, artillery and airplanes in a “suppression” campaign against the people’s forces.

The commentary declared: Following the teachings of Chairman Mao, the great teacher of the revolutionary people of the world, the Thai people’s forces waged a tenacious battle against the enemy. They realized that only by annihilating the enemy’s effective strength in large numbers could they thoroughly smash the counter-revolutionary “suppression” campaign, preserve and expand their strength and enlarge their area of activities.

The commentary continued: The brilliant victory scored by the Thai people’s forces once again testifies to Chairman Mao’s brilliant thesis that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers. It proves that the U.S. and Thai reactionaries are essentially paper tigers and that it is the Thai people who are really powerful. They are more deeply convinced than ever before that, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Thailand and persevering in armed struggle, they will win final victory.

INDIA

Bodo People Rise Against Oppression

The Bodo people in Assam State have risen against the Indian reactionaries’ brutal oppression.

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The Bodos have long resented this oppression and have demanded the setting up of an autonomous region of their own. However, the reactionary Indian Government unreasonably and arrogantly rejected this demand.

To voice their protest, the Bodo masses boycotted an Indian parliamentary by-election. On May 19, they encircled the polling booths in Kokrajhar Town, set up road-blocks and attacked officials in charge.

The reactionary Indian authorities immediately dispatched large numbers of police to suppress them. That night, thousands of infuriated Bodos, armed with clubs, spears and other weapons, broke into the Sidli police station in Kokrajhar region. They wounded 15 police and released 72 of their men who were imprisoned. Showing their vicious nature, the reactionary police opened fire on the Bodo people.

This bloody suppression aroused even more bitter resistance. For several days running, hundreds of Bodos fought valiantly against the reactionary police with spears, swords, bows and arrows. On May 22, 5,000 of them encircled a police station in Kokrajhar, demanding the release of over 500 of their number who had been arrested. When tear gas and baton charges failed to disperse them, the reactionary police opened fire, wounding more than 50, and arrested 750. On May 24, some 4,000 Bodos made another violent attack on the Sidli police station.

COLOMBIA

Growth of a Guerrilla Force

The peasants of the Alto Sinu area in northwestern Colombia have risen in arms and formed a guerrilla force which workers and students have joined.

Not long ago they published a bulletin which announced that they had killed or wounded 40 government troops in recent engagements. The guerrillas have armed themselves and the local population with weapons seized from the enemy and have struck at the reactionary elements who have been bullying the people. They have thus won the support of the masses.

On January 6, the guerrillas attacked a police station at Ure, a town in south Cordoba Province. They put to death a big latifundist who had criminally seized the land of several hundred peasants of whom he had killed dozens. In February, the guerrillas killed four police and captured a large number of weapons and equipment during an attack on a local government office in El Cerro, San Jorge. On May 28, they ambushed a government patrol in the vicinity of Monte Libano City, Cordoba Province.

Alto Sinu is situated on the border of Antioquia and Cordoba Provinces. The revolutionary people there have set up the Patriotic Committee of Alto Sinu and Alto San Jorge to oppose the pro-U.S. dictatorial government's policy of national betrayal and its reactionary measures suppressing the people. The committee pointed out in a statement last January that, as the reactionary Colombian Government serves the interests of U.S. imperialism and the local oligarchy, plunders the Colombian people's properties and land and suppresses and massacres the people, the peasants have been forced to take up arms and revolt.

Revolucion, organ of the Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist-Leninist), has warmly hailed the birth of the guerrilla force. The paper pointed out in a recent article that the revolutionary people of the Alto Sinu area, under the brilliant guidance of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung's thought, are fighting courageously for Colombia's emancipation from oppression by the Yankees and cruel exploiters.

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