The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them.

— MAO TSE-TUNG

LAOTIAN PATRIOTIC PEOPLE AND ARMY
Victory Follows Victory

The Laotian patriotic people and their army have followed up their smashing victory in Nam Bac last January with many battle triumphs. They have been on the offensive from Upper Laos down to the south, knocking out a large number of enemy effective, liberating many areas and smashing and occupying numerous enemy strongholds and outposts. All this has dealt a body blow to U.S. imperialism which schemes to enlarge its war of aggression in Laos.

Early in February, the patriotic armed forces in Xieng Khouang Province mounted a fierce attack on three Rightist battalions stationed in Muong Ngaa area, south of the Plain of Jars. They wiped out large numbers of enemy troops and freed the entire area. This was followed by the liberation of the nearby strategically important areas of Tha Thom and Tha Vieng. These successes freed several thousand local people and smashed the years-long U.S. imperialist attempt to seize the strategic Plain of Jars through large-scale offensives and “nibbling” attacks.

Beginning from January, the patriotic forces launched a series of attacks and seized many enemy outposts in Sam Neua Province’s Pa Thi area — a stronghold of the U.S.-fostered bandits bordering the provinces of Sam Neua, Luang Prabang and Xieng Khouang. The enemy’s last stronghold in the area was finally overrun on March 11. This is an important victory because it means the final destruction of the “Special Forces” camp set up by U.S. imperialism in this mountainous region to harass and raid the liberated areas in the three provinces.

In Lower Laos, the patriotic armed forces bombarded the encircled enemy in Saravane, capital of Saravane Province. Prior to that, they smashed into the enemy stronghold in Lao Ngam, 40 kilometres to the southwest of Saravane and inflicted heavy casualties on the Rightist 892nd Regt.

There were many more outstanding victories, in Luang Prabang, Luang Nam Tha, Phong Saly and other provinces in Upper Laos as well as in Udornay, Attopue, Savannakhet and other provinces in Lower Laos. Many enemy strongholds were taken.

The Laotian patriotic armed forces have grown rapidly in strength in the current dry season. There was not only better overall co-ordination between the Liberation Army, the regional forces and the guerrillas, but also between the various units in different areas. Developing speedily, the regional forces and the guerrillas have been very successful in defending the liberated areas and breaking up both small and large-scale enemy “nibbling” attacks. The Liberation Army, too, has developed its strategy and tactics to a higher level. Its fighters have been able in their operations to annihilate ever larger number of enemy units in their entirety. According to figures recently released by the High Command of the Laotian People’s Liberation Army, the patriotic army and people put out of action or disorganized more than 9,000 enemy troops during the four months from November 1967 to February this year. They included 8 battalions and 11 companies annihilated, 4 regiments and 21 battalions heavily battered.

In the final analysis, national struggle is a matter of class struggle.

— MAO TSE-TUNG

NAGAS AND MIZOS TAKE UP ARMS
Growing Struggle Against Oppression

Ne Win was in New Delhi in mid March to plot with the reactionary Indian Government the stepped-up suppression of the Naga and Mizo armed forces along the India-Burma border. This shows how alarmed the Indian and Burmese reactionaries are in the face of the rising, large-scale armed struggle of these national minorities in India’s northeastern frontier areas.

The Naga and Mizo forces have launched repeated attacks this year. In one Mizo ambush alone, 26 Indian soldiers were killed and many others wounded. Since then, the guerrillas in Nagaland, the Mizo Hills and the union territory of Manipur have been preparing for large-scale operations.

The Nagas, Mizos and Kukis have been closing their ranks against their common enemy. In Manipur, the Nagas and Mizos have strengthened their ties. The Mizos have moved to Manipur’s Charachandpur area in large numbers, and they have settled down and established close contact with the local Kukis. Having co-ordinated their activities and reorganized, some Naga armed units are recruiting new members.

All this has greatly alarmed the Indian reactionaries. Besides buying over some traitors and supplying them with weapons to kill their fellow Nagas and Mizos who refuse to submit to the reactionary rule, they have intensified their collusion with the Burmese reactionaries.

To prepare the public for joint suppression, reactionary government officials and bourgeois papers in India have recently come out with such blatant propaganda nonsense as, “the Nagas in India are moving to Burma in groups,” “the armed Nagas have their headquarters in Burma,” etc.

In fact, the reactionary governments of India and Burma have long been collaborating in this matter. The Indian Statesman has disclosed that, early in 1966, they reached agreement on a joint patrol of the Indian-Burmese border. More secret talks were held between the two governments last year.

The Nagas and Mizos have taken up arms because of ruthless class oppression by the Indian big landlords and big capitalists. This is inevitable. The Indian reactionaries may collude with their Burmese counterparts for suppressive measures or resort to other tricks, but they cannot hold back the courageous struggle of these nationalities who rebel to defend their right to exist.

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