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← TRUONG SON ARTICLE ON 1966-67 VICTORIES

[Following is a translation of an article in the Vietnamese-language periodical, Hoc Tap (Studies), Hanoi, No 6, June 1967, pages 16-42, and 50.]

Dealt a stunning blow in the 1965-1966 dry season and the bitter failures in both zones of our country in the rainy season, the Johnson-McNamara clique, although still reluctant to open their eyes to reality, cannot help feeling that the U.S. strategy of local war of aggression, with the U.S. expeditionary armed forces as a trump card, has gone through a stormy period full of difficulties and that the concept of a quick fight and early victory no longer holds water.

The short-lived optimism brought about by the dispatch of U.S. troops to save the puppet troops in 1965 gradually vanished and gave way to a new nightmare, causing a headache to the U.S. imperialists and forcing them to answer various difficult questions concerning war leadership, such as what is the prospect for the war of aggression in the south, how to get out of the war with a military victory, how to solve the political problem in the south, what to do in the immediate future, and so forth.

Faced with this situation, although they have become discouraged, the Americans continued to remain stubborn and to place their hopes on a military solution on the battlefield. Therefore, in entering the 1966-1967 dry season, the Americans made a big decision: to launch one more strategic counteroffensive, with the strength of their armed forces 1.5 times greater than in the past dry season, and with their firepower, war means, and resources two to three times greater than in the past dry season.

This time, their strategic objectives remained basically the same as those set forth in Westmoreland's five-point strategy. The only differences lay in a number of formulas, operating methods, and the scale of using forces. What was noteworthy in the strategic decision this time was that the U.S. ambition was to strive to achieve important successes in search-and-destroy and pacification operations in order to create a turning point, in the hope of advancing toward achieving a decisive victory in a short period of time.

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OBITUARY NOTICE FOR COMRADE NGUYEN CHI THANH

Following is a translation of the text of an obituary notice in the Vietnamese-language periodical, Hoc Tap (Studies), Hanoi, No 8, August 1967, page 1.

The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Government of the DRV, the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, and the High Command of the Vietnam People's Army announce with utmost grief that:

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, member of the Secretariat of the party's Central Committee, member of the National Defense Council of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and general of the Vietnam People's Army, was suddenly stricken by a serious heart attack. In spite of the greatest possible solicitude of the party's Central Committee, the government, and the High Command of the people's army, and the utmost efforts exerted by the doctors, he died in the 108th military hospital in Hanoi on 6 July 1967 at the age of 53.

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### BIOGRAPHY OF COMRADE NGUYEN CHI THANH

Following is a translation of an article in the Vietnamese-language periodical, Hoc Tap (Studies), Hanoi, No 8, August 1967, pages 4-5.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh was born on 1 January 1914 to a poor peasant family in Nghiem Pho village, Quang Dien district, Thua Thien Province. From his early days he had patriotic feelings. When he was 17, together with some of the young people, he struggled against the local bullies. He joined the popular movement and was admitted into the Indochinese Communist Party in July 1937. Then, he was appointed to serve as party branch secretary. In 1938, he was assigned as province party committee secretary of Thua Thien Province. He was arrested in late 1938. After he was released from prison, he continued his revolutionary activities and was reassigned as party committee secretary of Thua Thien Province until he was arrested in 1939 and put in jail again by the French colonialists in Hue, Lao Bao, and Ban Me Thuot. In 1941, he broke out of jail and, together with several other comrades, organized the temporary province party committee of Thua Thien Province. He made an effort to build revolutionary organizations in many areas of this province.

He was arrested again in 1943. After the coup d'etat of March 1945, conducted by the Japanese against the French, he continued his revolutionary activities in the south of central Vietnam. In August 1945, he was assigned as a representative to attend the national party conference held at Tan Trao. He was elected a member of the party Central Committee and appointed as central Vietnam party committee secretary. In 1947, he was reassigned as province party committee secretary of Thua Thien Province. Then, he was made secretary of the Binh Tri Thien subregion party committee. From late 1948 to 1950, he was the secretary of the interzone party committee of the Fourth Interzone. In 1950, he was appointed head of the Political Affairs Directorate of the Vietnam People's Army and deputy secretary of the central Military Committee.

At the second national Party congress in 1951, he was elected a member of the party Central Committee and was recommended to serve in the Political Bureau. As soon as peace was restored, he contributed to the building of our army.

In 1959, he was promoted to the military rank of senior general of the Vietnam People's Army by the National Assembly, the Government, and President Ho.

At the third national party representative congress in 1960, he was reelected as a member of the party Central Executive Committee and was appointed to serve in the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee Secretariat. In 1961, he was placed in charge of the party agricultural committee. When our people began carrying out the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance, the party Central Committee transferred him again to the army. He was also a member of the DRV National Defense Council.

Although he was given all-out care by the party Central Committee, the government, and the high command, and wholehearted treatment by doctors, he dies at nine o'clock in the morning (Hanoi time) on 6 July 1967 after a heart attack. Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh's revolutionary life was active and continuously revolutionary. He had a resolute fighting will and revolutionary spirit. He was a leading cadre who was richly endowed with the ability and energy to make outstanding contributions to the application and thorough understanding of the party's political and military policies and other positive contributions to the glorious victories of our troops and people.

He had a highly communist collective spirit and a love for the comrades. He was close to the masses and successfully united and mobilized the indoctrination of the majority of the cadres and the masses in order to eagerly fight for the revolution. Due to the merits and accomplishments he contributed to the revolution, the National Assembly, government, and high command of the Vietnam People's Army bestowed on him Military Exploit Medal Second Class, Resistance Exploit Medal First Class, Victory Exploit Medal First Class, and Combatant Exploit Medal, Third and Second Class. Now, he has posthumously been awarded Ho Chi Minh Exploit Medal First Class and Military Exploit Medal First Class.

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LE DUC THO'S FUNERAL ORATION FOR NGUYEN CHI THANH

Following is a translation of the text of a funeral oration by Le Duc Tho as published in the Vietnamese-language periodical, Hoc Tap (Studies), Hanoi, No 8, August 1967, pages 6-8.

Dear comrades: Our dear Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh has passed away. At a time when our compatriots and combatants throughout the country are achieving glorious victories during the fierce phase of the sacred anti-U.S. national salvation struggle, the comrade's death is a very great loss to our party, our army, and our people. Our party has lost a loyal and talented comrade leader. Our army has lost a resourceful and able commander and a courageous and resolute comrade. Our people have lost an outstanding son and leader. We deeply grieve and mourn for the comrade.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh dedicated his entire life to the glorious revolutionary work of our party and people. The comrade was born on 1 January 1914 in Niem Phong hamlet, Quang Dien district, Thua Thien Province. He came from a poor peasant family. Being enlightened about the revolution early, the comrade joined the party's ranks when he was still young and enthusiastically struggled against the yoke of the imperialists and the feudal landlords even during the days when the French colonialists terrorized the revolutionary movement of our country and plunged it into bloodshed.

In eight years, he was promoted from an ordinary member of the Indochinese Communist Party to party branch Secretary and Thua Thien provincial party committee secretary. Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh was arrested and jailed by the imperialists three times -- in Hue, Lao Bao, and Ban Me Thuot. He escaped from jail and pursued his activities. While working for the movement and while he was in imperialist jails, the comrade constantly proved himself to be a staunch and loyal communist who was unafraid of danger and who did not retreat from difficulties. The comrade contributed to building the party foundation and stepping up the revolutionary movement in Thua Thien Province at that time. With a resolute mind and a limitless confidence in

the revolutionary cause, Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh fought with all his enthusiasm and intelligence and matured with our people's revolutionary movement under party leadership.

In August 1945, the nationwide party conference in Tan Trao appointed the comrade as a full member of the party Central Committee. Then he was appointed by the party Central Committee as central Vietnam Party Committee secretary. In 1947 and 1948, the comrade was appointed by the party Central Committee as Thua Thien provincial party committee secretary and Binh Tri Thien regional party committee secretary. At that time, the resistance against the French colonialists in central Trung Bo encountered difficulties. The enemy concentrated his forces there and attacked fiercely.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh proved himself worthy of the Central Committee's confidence. Along with the party organizations the comrade led the people in rising up, restoring and developing the political base, stepping up the guerrilla war, turning the tide, and laying the foundation for the brilliant victories of the resistance movement in Binh Tri Thien.

Between late 1948 and 1950, in his capacity as the Fourth Interzone party committee secretary, Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh contributed to leading the interzone troops and people in uniting themselves for production and combat, in stepping up the resistance, and in building a strong and firm rear.

In 1950, when the anti-French resistance of all our people entered a fierce phase, the party transferred the comrade to the army and entrusted him with the position of head of the Directorate General for Political Affairs and of Deputy secretary of the Central Military Committee.

The second nationwide party congress appointed the comrade as a full member of the party Central Committee. The comrade was selected by the party Central Committee to join the Political Bureau. During that period, along with the comrades in the party Central Committee and the Central Military Committee, the comrade devoted all his energy to directly leading the people's armed forces in fulfilling the party's strategic determination to fight and achieve ever greater victories and finally defeat the French colonialists and U.S. interventionists in the historic campaign of Dien Bien Phu.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh made great contributions to strengthening party leadership over the army; building the army politically, ideologically, and organizationally; improving and developing the revolutionary nature of our army; building the habit of carrying out political tasks; and quickly increasing the combativity of the people's armed forces. He devoted his constant care to the education and training of a strong contingent of cadres to meet the ever increasing requirements of the revolution.

After peace was reestablished, Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh actively contributed to the building of our strong armed forces, as the staunch defense

of the construction of socialism in the north, and to the struggle for the reunification of the country. The comrade was named general by the National Assembly, the government, and President Ho.

In 1961, he was entrusted with the party agricultural committee. He greatly contributed to the development of the cooperative movement and the increase in agricultural production.

Since the time the U.S. imperialists started waging aggression against our country, Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh, because of his revolutionary virtues and abilities, was called back by the party to serve the armed forces, and from that time he contributed greatly to the armed forces leadership work. The comrade showed himself to be an outstanding leader. He set forth all his efforts and abilities for the successful implementation of the political and military policy of the party. The comrade greatly contributed to the development of the military art of people's warfare of the party. The comrade gave full play to the fighting spirit of our armed forces and people and contributed to leading the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle to great victories in the recent past.

Our beloved Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh was a staunch communist combatant, absolutely faithful to the revolutionary task of the party, and animated with the spirit of firmly striking the enemies of the proletarian class and the people. He had a high sense of responsibility, eagerness for revolution, and a great creative spirit in his activities. He was a modest and simple man who was eager to study, and he sincerely upheld unity and loved his comrades in arms.

With these fine revolutionary qualities, the comrade perfectly completed, despite a hard and complicated situation, all tasks entrusted him by the party Central Committee, the government, the Central Military Committee, and the High Command. The comrade showed himself to be worthy of the confidence of the party and he is cherished by our people and armed forces.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh has passed away, but his spirit will forever remain with the glorious revolutionary achievements of our party, people, and armed forces. With great regret we say farewell to Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh. The more we hold late Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh in mournful memory, the more all our party members, cadres, and combatants should try to study his high revolutionary virtues, especially his firm revolutionary spirit, bravery, creativeness, straightforwardness, sincerity, affection for his comrades in arms, and the bravery and modesty in his actions. We are determined to turn our mourning into a moral and physical force to fight the U.S. aggressors for national salvation, to firmly defeat the U.S. aggressors, to liberate South Vietnam, to defend the north, to reunify the fatherland, continue the cause of socialist construction until its accomplishment, and to victoriously meet the most sacred of our people's and party's struggle which was also the lifetime aspiration of Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh.

Dear Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh, you have passed away, but you will remain forever in the minds of your comrades in arms and our people as the brilliant example of a genuine communist who has struggled and endured sacrifices throughout his life for the fatherland, the people, and the great communist ideal. As you firmly believed, our people, under the leadership of the party headed by beloved President Ho, must defeat the U.S. aggressors and will certainly complete the building of socialism. Please accept the profound regret of the party, government, people, and the people's armed forces, and of your comrades and dear friends. Farewell, comrade.

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