

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### Final Hours of a Regime: The Ho Chi Minh Campaign Wins Total Victory

H-Hour of D Day had arrived. The time was 0000 hours, 29 April 1975, the designated hour for all of our columns in five directions to simultaneously launch their attacks on Saigon, annihilate the rest of the enemy's defensive troops, and penetrate directly to the five key objectives. It was the designated hour for all of the commando teams and sapper units to emerge from their hiding places in and around the city, attack the enemy from the inside, take the objectives assigned them, and establish contact with the column advancing into the city from the outside. It was also the designated hour for the party cadres and political cadres to lead the patriotic masses in uprisings to kill the tyrants, disintegrate the puppet administration, encourage the puppet troops to throw down their weapons and surrender, win political power for the people, bring about an earthshaking upheaval, and eliminate oppression, injustice and slavery.

H-Hour of D Day was a common starting point the Ho Chi Minh Campaign Command set for the entire Saigon Front. It was the reference point for calculating every task and act, no matter whether the unit was far or near, whether the unit's conditions were difficult or easy, whether the unit was encountering obstacles or going smoothly, and whether it had begun its activities before or after, early or late. At that hour, everyone would have to make the maximum effort to take their objectives and converge at the central point: the Presidential Palace of the puppet regime.

H-Hour, D Day was also the time the B2 Regional Command had set for all military regions, provinces, units and areas in which the enemy was still present, so that they could simultaneously arise to gain political power and determine their destiny. Villages had to liberate villages, districts had to liberate districts and provinces had to liberate provinces.

There had seldom been an H-Hour more eagerly waited by millions of animated, excited hearts waiting worriedly and happily. It was the H-Hour we had awaited during decades of fierce warfare. It was a D Day made possible by millions of people who fell, every day and every hour, over a period of 10,000 days of fierce fighting.

Those of us waiting at the campaign headquarters waited anxiously. I naturally felt oddly tranquil. By that time there was nothing to worry about. All of the columns reported that things were going well and they were ready. The military regions and the distant units repeated the H-Hour, D Day date so that there would be no confusion. All orders were sent out and correct replies were received. How about the coming tasks? Wait until the guns exploded like new year's firecracker. Those tranquil moments were too brief, but were precious.

They helped us purge ourselves from the residual poisonous air of the past and to breathe in pure air for the coming urgent tasks.

It was just like new year's eve. The sound of firecrackers could be heard from all directions.

To the northwest, our 3d Corps attacked and overran Dong Du, the base of the puppet 25th Division, and captured Ly Tong Ba, the division commander. The Corps' sapper regiment took in advance and held the Bong bridge on Route 1 and the Xang bridge on Route 15. The corps advanced toward the city along two roads: the main road was Route 1 and the secondary road was Route 15. But when our troops were crossing Xang bridge it collapsed and two tanks fell into the river, so the Route 15 column had to switch over to Route 1 and advance on Hoc Mon. The forces of Tay Ninh Province coordinated by preventing the 25th Division from withdrawing from the province, and helped the people to liberate their province. Cu Chi coordinated with the main-force troops in attacking Dong Du and taking the subsector. The people in the Cu Chi area, led by mother Bay Nguyen Thi Lanh, a 76-year-old party member whose three sons had sacrificed their lives for the revolution, took the police headquarters and then occupied all of the Cu Chi district seat, kept everything intact, and turned it over to the local troops. Mother Bay herself climbed up to plant a flag on the police headquarters while the enemy was still there. The police were terrified by the vengeful glare of an old, gray-haired mother and the unarmed uprising people, and threw down their weapons and fled.

In the 3d Corps' path of advance, on 29 April the 14th Sapper Battalion took the Cho Moi bridge, the Quan Tre broadcasting station, the police branch, and the Quang Trung Training Center in Hoc Mon. The 1st Gia Dinh Regiment liberated the villages of Tan Thoi Nhat and Xuan Thoi Thong, and took the Tham Luong bridge, the 4th Battalion of the Gia Dinh Regiment, along with the 115th Sapper Regiment, liberated Tan Thoi Hiep village and made two breaches north of Tan Son Nhat airfield so that the forces of the Corps could come in to attack it. During the early morning of 30 April the 3d Corps advanced from Hoc Mon to take its main objective, defeating the enemy's counterattacks and taking the entire airfield by 1400 hours that day.

To the north 1st Corps took the town of Tan Uyen, surrounded the Phu Loi base, and penetrated straight through to Lai Thieu in order to advance into the city. The entire puppet 5th Division was surrounded and isolated between our two columns--3d Corps and 1st Corps--and had no way out. Attacked by the local troops in coordination with the corps, it hoisted the white flag and surrendered. All three regiments--the 7th, 8th and 9th--threw down their weapons and surrendered on the spot. The Binh Duong subsector also raised the white flag in the morning of 30 April. The 1st Corps crossed the Binh Phuoc bridge and advanced to its main objective: The GHQ. The Binh Phuoc Bridge, which had been taken by the 115th Sapper Regiment on the morning of 29 April, was retaken by an enemy counterattack. When our headquarters learned that the enemy had placed explosives and intended to blow up the Binh Phuoc bridge, we immediately sent an urgent message to the 115th Regiment: "Take and hold the Binh Phuoc bridge at all costs.... Immediately cut the wires to the explosive charges the enemy had placed at the bridge...." In the early morning of 30 April the Regiment retook the Binh Phuoc bridge and held it until the 1st Corps passed over it. Ahead of 1st Corps, the 80th Sapper Battalion, along with commando units, during the night of 28 April attacked the Co Loa

artillery base at Go Vap, which they were unable to take until the morning of 30 April. That same morning, at 0920 hours, the battalion took the "Phu Dong" armor base. At the puppet GHQ, in the morning of 30 April there were no longer any commanders. The puppet troops had lost all their morale, and some had fled. But the 81st Airborne Ranger Brigade continued to defend the gates obstinately. At 0830 on 30 April the Z28 commando regiment commanded by comrade Bay Vinh unsuccessfully attacked Gate 1, so it changed over to Gate 3. Near there were some abandoned enemy tanks. A team took a fully equipped enemy gun, mounted it on a Jeep, and broke through to the Electronic Computer Center. Colonel Ho, who was in charge there, turned the entire installation over to them. The IBM computer system and all puppet personnel management and equipment inventory tapes were intact. The time was 1000 hours. The team drove the Jeep to the main building of the GHQ. All of the enemy troops had fled. There remained only a corporal, who greeted the team and turned over to it a bunch of keys. All documents and property were intact. That puppet corporal was comrade Ba Minh, a regional intelligence agent who had been planted in the GHA long before (he is now a captain with the staff of Military Region 7). Our flag was flown from the main flagpole and the roof of the main building at 1030 hours. At exactly 1200 hours on 30 April comrade Vinh (now Lt Col Le Van Vinh, a Hero of the Armed Forces and now deputy chief of staff of Tay Ninh Province, greeted the forces of the Corps and turned over the objective to them. Along that column's route the people arose and coordinated with the commandos, especially in An Phu Dong village, wiping out the puppet organs and village police and immediately setting up a new administration. At 0930 hours on 30 April, under the leadership of the local party cell, the people took Subward 2 in the town of Go Vap. Prior to that, in the afternoon of 29 April, comrade Thuan, a district cadre, led the masses in taking and flying a flag from the headquarters of Subward 12 in Phu Nhuan District.

To the west, in the morning of 29 April, Group 232 took the city of Hau Nghia, thus insuring its left flank. One element wiped out the puppet 22d Division and took the city of Tan An and the towns of Ben Luc. And Cau Binh Dien, then advanced toward Saigon along Route 4, insuring its right flank. The main deep penetration element--the 9th Division, advanced from My Hanh and Vinh Loc to the Bay Hien intersection and took its main objective, the puppet Capital Special Zone headquarters. The time was 1030 hours, 30 April. In the area of the Bay Hien intersection the enemy put up a stiff resistance and used A-37's to bomb our troop formations, inflicting a number of losses.

The 429th Sapper Regiment and the 117th Regiment, coordinating with the western column, on 29 and 30 April took a number of key objectives, such as the Phu Lam radar station, the Tan Tao strategic zone, the Vinh Loc intersection, the Phu Tho Communications Center, Ba Hom bridge, and Nhi Thien Duong bridge.

The people in the villages of Hoc Mon and Ba Diem, and especially in the village of Phu Tho Hoa, arose, encouraged the enemy to put down their weapons and surrender, smashed the puppet administration, and flew liberation flags. Many villages set up revolutionary administrations. In Precinct 11, sister Ut Van and brother Sau Hoang, local party cadres, led the masses in arising to take over the administration in Subward 8 at 0900 on 30 April, and took over the administration headquarters of the precinct at 0915, before our troops arrived.

The southern column, as stated above, despite many difficulties, arrived at its objectives by the stipulated time and quickly took its main objective, the National Police Headquarters. The files, records and documents, some still on desks, were all intact.

To the east, the 4th Corps, following Route 1, advanced directly to Bien Hoa air base and the headquarters of the puppet III Corps. The remaining forces of the 18th Division, the 3d Armored Brigade, and Marines tried to stop us and launched continuous counterattacks. The deep penetration forces included the 7th Division and its reserve unit the 52d Brigade. Early in the morning of 30 April the lead element reached Ghenh bridge but saw that it was weak and feared that tanks could not cross it, so it returned to the Bien Hoa highway and followed the 2d Corps into Saigon and took the puppet Ministry of Defense, the naval base, and the radio station.

The people in Binh Thanh District, led and mobilized by sister Ba Lieu, took the headquarters of Subward 13 at 0930 hours on 30 April. One column of the 2d Corps took Ba Ria and Vung Tau (the 3d Division of Military Region 5). Another column attacked Long Thanh, took the Nhon Trach war zone, set up a 130mm artillery base there, and prepared for an element to cross the Dong Nai River to coordinate with the sappers and commandos in attacking Military Region 9. The main column advancing on Saigon was led by the 203d Tank Brigade. When it arrived at the Buong bridge it discovered that it had been blow up. All day on 29 April the 203d Tank Brigade was unable to cross the river. Only around midnight was it able to cross the Buong River and advance straight toward Saigon along the Bien Hoa-Saigon highway. There the 203d Tank Brigade established contact with our forces holding a bridge. An element of the 116th Regiment responsible for holding the Dong Nai bridge expanded the area under its control and occupied a corner of the Long Binh supply depot (liberated the villages of An Hoa and Long Hung villages). The 116th Regiment immediately built defensive works in that area. After midnight the 203d Tank Brigade, firing furiously, advanced toward Saigon. Thinking that they were enemy tanks, the sappers defending the bridge fired back with B40 and B41 RPG's. Fortunately, they were inaccurate. But thanks to the light produced by the exploding shells, our men recognized the NLF flags on the tanks (0050 hours, 30 April) and asked for the password, "Ho Chi Minh?" The tank driver, recalling the password used when he was in Military Region 5, responded, "19 May." He was asked a second time, "Ho Chi Minh?" This time the driver responded, "Long live." Our men were ecstatic and waved NLF flags.

On that highway there were three key bridges: The Dong Nai bridge, the Rach Chiec bridge, and Newport bridge.

During the night of 26 April the 116th Sapper Regiment took the Dong Nai bridge but the next day the enemy counterattacked and retook it. During the night of 28 April our unit retook the eastern end of the bridge, then attacked the western end and organized defensive positions. During the afternoon of 29 April our men could hear the sound of many vehicles coming from toward Saigon from the direction of Long Thanh. Our reconnaissance reported that in all there were 15 enemy vehicles, led by five tanks and armored vehicles with trucks full of troops, women and children, and that they were infantry on both sides of the road. Over a U.S. PRC-25 field radio the regimental radio heard a brief conversation:

"When the last vehicle has crossed the bridge, use 5 tons of explosives to blow up the bridge."

"How about the units behind us?"

"This road is no longer usable. That's an order from our commander. The Viet Cong are pursuing you. Blow up the bridge right away!"

Our troops had not given away their ambush positions. The unsuspecting convoy reached a point about a kilometer from the bridge. We immediately opened fire with B40 and B41 RPG's. The first five vehicles were wiped out. Some of the enemy troops climbed over the fence of the Long Binh supply depot and fled on foot. The vehicles in the rear of the convoy turned around and headed for Bien Hoa.

Exploiting its victory, our unit took a corner (in the west southwest) of the Long Binh depot. The bridge was kept intact to the end.

At the Rach Chiec bridge the fighting was also very fierce. The Z23 commando unit, along with the 81st Sapper Battalion, the commander of which was Nguyen Hoang An, the deputy commander of which was Tran Kim Thinh, and the political officer was Nguyen Van Tu, were responsible for taking and defending that bridge. At 0300 hours on 27 April they opened fire and after an hour of fighting they took the entire bridge and carefully cut all electric wires under the bridge. All day on the 27th the enemy troops, in coordination with boats on the river, counterattacked fiercely. By 1500 on 28 April, steadfast Z23 had lost 20 comrades. Our forces had to temporarily withdraw to a channel, in which many nipa palms and holly plants were growing, about 500 meters away.

Determined to fulfill its responsibility, during the night of 28 April Z23 carried out another attack. But it was unsuccessful. Only by the night of 29 April was the unit able to take the bridge for a second time. It held the bridge until our tanks crossed it at 0930 30 April.

During the night of 28 April the 4th Thu Duc Battalion was unsuccessful in its attack to take the Newport bridge because the enemy was strong there and the bridge was near Saigon.

When the 203d Tank Brigade of 2d Corps reached the Dong Nai highway bridge the infantry had not yet caught up. At the bridge comrade Tai, the brigade commander, met comrade Tong Viet Duong, an Army Hero, commander of the sapper-commando forces of the eastern column (now a colonel and deputy commander of the Dong Nai Province military command); Vo Tan Si, commander of the 116th Sapper-Commando Regiment (now a lieutenant colonel and commander and political officer of the 304th Police Regiment of the Ho Chi Minh City Public Security Service). Comrade Tai said that the Corps had ordered that Independence Palace be taken that day. But the infantry had not yet arrived, it was not clear where the enemy was. The unit was not familiar with the streets, which it knew only from the map.

Comrade Duong said immediately, "It will be too late if we wait for the infantry. We have a strong sapper regiment. I was for many years an intelligence cadre in Saigon and know the streets very well. I know all of the enemy areas. I even know all about Independence Palace. Go ahead and attack."

Comrade Si added, "Our regiment had been assigned the mission of attacking in the outskirts and was only recently reassigned here. Many of our cadres and men are familiar with the area. Our regiment is also capable of fighting as infantry and is experienced in attacking the enemy's bases and rear area. Go ahead and launch a coordinated attack!"

Comrade Tai considered their opinions and agreed.

Some time was lost in reorganizing the tank formation and in concentrating the sapper regiment.

Except for two companies which remained behind to defend the bridge, the troops of the 116th Regiment climbed aboard the tanks of the 203d Brigade. Cooperating in combat, the two units bravely advanced toward the presidential palace of the puppet regiment.

Comrade Duong sat with comrade Tai and comrade Minh (political director) in the command car of the brigade commander, the sixth vehicle in the formation. Comrade Si, commander of the 116th Regiment, traveled in the third vehicle. Comrade Pham Duy Do, acting commander of Company 1, 19th Battalion, traveled in the second vehicle. The convoy left the Dong Nai bridge at 0600, 30 April.

When the convoy passed by Suoi Cai in Thu Duc puppet troops in enemy's Joint Officer Training School poured artillery fire into our formation. One tank was hit and its crew was killed. The 37mm anti-aircraft guns were damaged. Following the directions of comrade Duong, comrade Tai ordered two tank columns--one crossing a field and the other circling around in the direction of Nho Market, to immediately wipe out the artillery positions in the school (in Tang Nhon Phu village).

When the convoy crossed over the Rach Chiec bridge, comrade Tu Think reported on the bridges and enemy troops in the area. As it neared the Newport bridge, suddenly many rounds were fired at our troops from the buildings on both sides of the road. One vehicle was damaged and one comrade was killed. The sappers immediately jumped down from the tanks and searched out and captured many heavily armed enemy troops still wearing their camouflaged uniforms. Then two A-37 airplanes dived down to drop bombs, then flew away. We were safe and continued to advance.

When the convoy passed over the Newport bridge the people poured out of the houses along the road. The nearer it came to Saigon the more people there were, waving flags and hands to greet the liberation troops. Foreign journalists taking moving and still pictures led us into the city. Near Thi Nghe bridge three enemy M113 armored personnel carriers appeared. We fired, setting one afire. The crews of the other two abandoned their vehicles on Thi Nghe bridge and fled.

The T54 tank in the lead rammed into the iron gate of Independence Palace and entered at 1110 hours. The tanks advanced directly to the flagpole in the center of the grounds. Another tank went left, then right, then came to a halt. The 116th Regiment troops jumped down from the tanks and surrounded the building, rounding up and arresting the guards and personnel and led them out and ordered them to sit on the grass. A tank crew led by comrade Bui Quang Than and a sapper team consisting of comrades Pham Duy Do and Pham Huy Nghe, took a flag to the balcony in front of the puppet Presidential Palace, waved it for a long time, then ran it up the main flagpole on the balcony. The time was 1130 hours.

The sapper team ran downstairs to and searched the rooms. On the first floor, they pulled aside a curtain at the entrance to a room on the right. Inside the room the entire cabinet of the puppet regime was sitting around an oval-shaped table in the government conference room. Comrade Do pointed his AK rifle and shouted, "You've been surrounded. If anyone has a weapon, throw it down and surrender."

No one moved. No one said a word.

Do ordered comrade Nghe, who carried an AK rifle, to stand guard at the door: "Stand guard here, comrade. No one may leave this room!" Then Do ran out to find the commander. At that moment, comrade Tung, the political officer, and comrade Tai, the commander, of the 203d Brigade, along with Minh Chu, political director, and Duong, commander of the eastern column's sapper-commando forces, had just arrived at the gate. Do led the cadres inside.

Everyone in the room stood up. Duong Van Minh, president of the puppet regime, who sat at the head of the table, said,

"We have been waiting for you so that we could turn over the government!"

"You have nothing left to turn over. You can only surrender unconditionally. I invite you to come to the radio station to announce an unconditional surrender," said comrade Tung in a stern voice.

At command headquarters we attentively followed, hour by hour, the progress being made in each direction. On a large table there was spread out a large map of Saigon and its environs. Everyone watched the red lines drawn on the map by a staff cadre on the basis of reports from the columns. The cadre marks the points to which our troops had advanced and the objectives we had taken. Suddenly a cadre gleefully brought in a tape recorder and placed it on the table: it was the voice of Duong Van Minh announcing his unconditional surrender over the radio and ordering the puppet troops to throw down their weapons and surrender. Everyone gathered around, listening silently.

Everyone jumped with joy. Le Duc Tho, Pham Hung and Van Tien Dung, who were very moved, hugged and kissed one another and firmly shook hands. There are few moments in life when one is so happy that they want to cry. I suddenly felt as if my soul was translucent and light, as if everything had sunk to the bottom. The war was nearly over. It had been a long, fierce war, and many

of our comrades and compatriots were not around to share that happy moment. They had fallen so that we could enjoy that moment.

On 30 April Saigon was bright and sunny. Of all the streets half-red, half-blue liberation flags, mixed in with gold-starred red flags, flapped in the breeze. Everyone poured out onto the streets, pulled down the puppet flags, ran up our flags, appealed for the puppet troops to throw down their weapons and surrender, dissolve the puppet regime, and set up revolutionary administrations. The entire city arose, maintained order, and protected the factories and installations for the revolution and for themselves. Only after many years could there be that day. I remember that 25 August 1945 was a similar day, echoing with revolutionary footsteps. I happily looked at the liberation troops, the troops of Uncle Ho, and at the gigantic tanks and the enormous artillery pieces. Were your children or elder brothers among those troops? Were your uncle or aunt sitting on the tanks or artillery movers heroically spreading out in all directions? On all streets there were crowds surrounding the liberation troops, asking questions and talking. "Oh! They aren't at all like the puppet troops." "You are so nice and so handsome!" "You are so young and lovable."

In Saigon it was a day of action; indeed, it had been several days of action. It was not merely a matter of shouting, celebrating and greeting, like some historic days in the past. On 31 January 1789, during Tet Ky Dau, the people of Hanoi poured out onto the streets, happy, proud and confident, to greet the victorious troops of the national hero Nguyen Hue, who had come to liberate the capital. The poet Ngo Ngoc Du described the animated atmosphere on that victorious day:

"The clouds dispersed, the fog lifted, the sky brightened.  
"All over the city, old people and young, faces like flowers."

On that day, in the city of Saigon, the largest city in the nation, a city that had fought for many years under the leadership of the party, there was a similar animated atmosphere. But there was also a seething atmosphere of enthusiastic uprising. Everyone had contributed to the brilliant feat of keeping the city intact for the benefit of the people.

Did ordinary activities in Saigon differ before and after 1130 hours, 30 April? It differed in that before the fighting began every family was worried and everyone was agitated. Afterwards, when flags were flying on all streets, the atmosphere suddenly became festival-like. There were large crowds everywhere, but they were orderly and happy. Every house had ample electricity and water, and there was not a minute's interruption. Has a war ever concluded in such a manner in a city of 3.5 million people? On was that an accomplishment rare in history? That accomplishment was due to our party's leadership skill in combining attacks and uprisings, uprisings and attacks, and in combining attacks from without and attacks from within. If that had not been so, we could not have won victory. The actual results were evident.

At the city's waterworks in Thu Duc the Uprising Committee led by comrade Nguyen Van Muong mobilized the masses, frightened and chased away the enemy, and took

over the plant many hours before our troops arrived there. In and around the plant the enemy had stationed a Marine battalion, an anti-aircraft battalion and an RF battalion, and on 28 April they sent there about 40 tanks and armored vehicles. The enemy supplied 30 weapons to the self-defense forces, but most of them were in the hands of our organized masses. Comrade Muong was very worried. The trade union of Thu Duc District, represented by comrade Thanh Do, had assigned him the mission of organizing the workers and keeping the plant intact.

On 30 April, when he heard that our tanks from Bien Hoa were approaching comrade Muong led the worker masses in spreading rumors to frighten the puppet troops. He went up to the roof of the plant and raised a large flag he had readied in advance. The puppet troops were terrified and thought that the liberation troops had entered the factory. They disintegrated and ran. Some abandoned their vehicles and fled on foot. Comrade Muong organized an armed protection unit and a Plant Self-Management Committee, and continued to operate as usual, supplying water to the city without an hour's interruption.

The Thu Duc power plant was taken by commando unit Z23. After fulfilling its mission at the Rach Chiec bridge, Z33 was ordered to take the Ha Tien Cement Plant, the warehouse area, the Zetco mill (now Combine No 4), and the power plant, and to insure their safety and guide the workers in continuing to operate the plants. Electricity in Saigon was interrupted only 2 hours on 30 April. Thereafter there were always lights in all houses, government offices and streets.

In practically all factories--textile mills, food products plants, machinery plants, etc.--the workers helped protect the factory and insure the safety of machinery and facilities until an official management committee arrived to take over management. In all public offices at the central and municipal levels the personnel and officials kept intact the files, documents, and facilities so that they could be turned over to the revolutionary administration.

It was a truly magnificent transition from one regime to another. There were no serious foul-ups. There was not a single act of petty revenge. That was made possible by true revolution and by true people's war, in which all the people followed our party's guidance. Our people's armed forces and the heroic people of Ho Chi Minh City are worthy of being commended for their brilliant accomplishments.

We were happy to relay to the cadres, men party members, Youth Union members, and people of Saigon the congratulatory message of the Political Bureau of our party Central Committee on 30 April:

"The Political Bureau warmly congratulates the soldiers and people of Saigon-Gia Dinh and all cadres and men, party members, and Youth Union members of the main-force and local units, the elite troops, and the militia and self-defense forces, who fought very heroically, achieved brilliant feats of arms, annihilated or wiped out large numbers of the enemy, forced them to surrender unconditionally, liberated Ho Chi Minh City, and advanced the historic campaign bearing the name of the great Uncle Ho to total victory.

"All of you must manifest a determined-to-win spirit and, together with the people, continue to attack and arise to fully liberate the beloved south of our homeland."

Political Bureau\*

While such attacks and uprisings were taking place in Saigon and eastern Nam Bo, in the provinces of the Mekong Delta and even on such distant islands as Phu Quoc and Con Son the revolutionary wave of the people was billowing up. The soldiers and people cooperated very closely in carrying out attacks and uprisings, mopping up the enemy troops, and liberating one province after another. The movement was prepared and launched at a very early date, beginning in October 1974 with COSVN's instruction that villages should liberate villages, districts liberate districts and provinces liberate provinces. The provinces, cadres and people ardently responded to that correct stand. Tens of thousands of youths joined the armed combat forces. Hundreds of thousands of the masses participated in civilian labor, transporting ammunition and the wounded. All masses organizations, under the tight leadership of the local party committees, mobilized their forces to prepare to participate in the simultaneous uprising. The revolutionary tradition of the Mekong Delta has been demonstrated in the course of many movements, from the August Revolution in 1945, through the anti-French period, to the "simultaneous uprising" in 1960, and throughout the anti-U.S. period. Now, millions of people who were grateful to the party because they had land to till and prosperous lives, were awaiting the day of their home area's liberation.

The first province to be liberated was Tra Vinh, in Military Region 9, now a part of Cuu Long Province. The province was awarded the designation "The leading province in the two-months campaign during the 1974-1975 dry season" by the Western Nam Bo Zone, and was awarded a First-Class Bulwark Medal by the PRG.

At 1500 hours on 28 April the order of the Combined Provincial Campaign Command was promulgated. The cities and districts enthusiastically went into battle. During the night of 29 April the province opened fire.

By 0700 on 30 April, the RF posts, artillery bases, and airfield in the city were liberated. The people in and around the city, totalling more than 30,000 people of Vietnamese and Khmer descent, took to the streets to disarm the puppets and dissolve the hamlet, village and subward administrations. In all the districts, 180,000 people participated in arising to win political power. There remained only the headquarters of the puppet regime. The provincial forces, including the local troops, the sappers and the armed public security forces, led by Muoi (Nguyen Tan Tai) and Hai Tri, fought very fiercely. As many as 50 of our comrades died on the fence around provincial headquarters. Brother Hai Tri, a resolute commander, also fell there. At 0800 hours on 30 April the fighting there was still fierce and the headquarters was surrounded. At that time the superior bonze Son Xut of the Xon Rom Pagoda volunteered to win over the obstinate province chief and give him a way out and a way to redeem

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\*Document of the B2 War Recapitulation Section of the Ministry of National Defense.

himself with the people. At 1030 all puppet forces laid down their weapons and surrendered. At 1100 hours the revolutionary flag fluttered above provincial headquarters. The Tra Vinh provincial capital was liberated a little earlier than Saigon.

Another exemplary event in the uprising in the province took place at the My Khe post in Can Long District. Unarmed people surrounded and attempted to enter the post. A puppet police lieutenant set off a Claymore mine, killing four people and wounding four people and wounding four others. Immediately, hundreds of people surged into the post and captured the enemy troops. The police lieutenant was executed in the presence of the people.

The last place to be liberated in the province was Duyen Hai District. The time was 2000 hours, 30 April.

A province with an important position in the Mekong Delta, one that was not far from Saigon and was a staging area from which the enemy could aid the capital if they were capable of doing so was Tien Giang Province, made up of the former My Tho and Go Cong Provinces. There the enemy had concentrated nearly all of their 7th and 9th Divisions, with strong armor and artillery forces. They went all-out to defend Route 4, their lifeline, but beginning on 26 April, as stated above, Route 4 was cut in many places and the enemy was broken up into many fragments. Another strategic route passing through the province was the Cho Gao canal, which connected the Ca Mau area with Saigon and had always been an extremely important rice route. The people of Tien Giang had participated in many movements against foreign aggression, beginning with the arrival of the first French troops, and then against the Siamese troops brought in by Nguyen Anh (which was like bringing a fox into a chicken coop). There was a famous part of the Dong Thap Muoi which had a movement for the past 30 or 40 years. In April alone 40,000 people participated in civilian labor and in transporting weapons. Beginning on 15 April, 4,000 participated in cutting roads and in erecting obstacles on the Cho Gao canal. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to participate in attacks and uprisings to liberate their province.

The first place to take over political power in the province was Cho Gao District. The local troops, along with the armed security forces and commandos annihilated the enemy and completely liberated the town at 1330 hours on 30 April. Then our troops mobilized the people to arise, shatter the puppet regime and army, and spread out to liberate the entire district.

In Go Cong events developed differently. The provincial capital was situated deep in enemy territory, there were few provincial troops, and they were far to the west. When they learned that the puppet army and regime in Saigon had surrendered, the popular masses flocked to Go Cong City and used hand-held megaphones and electronic loudspeakers to appeal to the enemy to lay down their weapons and return to their home areas to earn a living. Soldiers' families rushed into the posts, brought out their relatives and forced them to throw down their weapons and come home. The local party cadres and political parties cleverly led the people in dissolving the puppet administrations, dismantling guard posts, and confiscating weapons and ammunition. An entire

enemy provincial capital completely fell apart. The people mastered all of the capital by 1300 hours on 30 April. Then three-wheeled Lambrettas and trucks carried our troops from the city to Vinh Huu so that they could take control. The entire province of Go Cong was liberated at 1430 hours on 30 April.

Go Cong had a tradition of using the strength of simultaneous uprising by the people to oppose the enemy. In 1954, immediately after the signing of the Geneva Agreements, a single local company, along with the militia and the people, wiped out or forced the surrender of 30 to 40 outposts, and by the time a ceasefire was imposed the enemy controlled little more than the city. Such incidents occurred many times--in the simultaneous uprising year of 1960, the elimination of village administrations and the dismantling of strategic hamlets in the Diem period, the expansion of the people's mastership right of mastery to many areas in 1974, and then their liberation of their province.

In the city of My Tho, a commando company of the municipal Labor Youth Union, relying on the revolutionary infrastructure, mobilized the masses to arise in the subwards, forces the civil guards and police to turn their weapons over to the revolution, and appealed for the puppet troops to lay down their weapons and surrender. At 1600 hours on 30 April a large liberation flag was raised from a high flagpole at the Nguyen Dinh Chieu High School. Subwards 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were the first to be liberated. But there were still troops holding out in the military compound near the soccer field. Members of the commando company, riding six Jeeps and holding high revolutionary flags, circled around to the riverbank and used loudspeakers to appeal for the enemy to surrender. When the convoy passed by Chuong Duong the enemy poured heavy fire into the vehicles. One Jeep was hit and Tran Van Tram was killed. The commandos, fighting back by firing pistols and throwing grenades, continued on and took the northern bridge in order to establish contact with Ben Tre. At 2400 hours on 30 April the 1st Regiment of the 8th Division of Military Region 8 arrived and fought to wipe out the puppet 6th Armored Squadron, which was still holding out at the old market. At 0500 hours on 1 May the city of My Tho was completely liberated.

On the morning of 30 April very large numbers of people poured out onto Route 4. While the province's armed forces were wiping out the enemy troops and capturing the Bung Mon bridge, from the direction of Binh Phu the people frightened the puppet troops and captured intact six M113 armored personnel carriers and an artillery base at Thuoc Nhien, along with two 155mm howitzers and four 105mm howitzers. The 12th Regiment of the puppet 7th Division completely disintegrated there.

In My Tho Province there was still a large enemy military base at Binh Duc, formerly the base of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division. After the Americans withdrew they turned the base over to the puppet troops. The Americans had spent much effort and money, brought in much machinery, confiscated the fertile rice land, and leveled the houses and gardens of the people living along the Mekong River, to build the base. They confiscated property and killed innocent people in the locality in order to transform the fields into a military base. The crude U.S. General Westmoreland not only realized that he was a war criminal but bragged about that project:

"The (U.S.) navy and army engineers created an island of sand which in the dry season became one of the greatest sand-rich places in the world.

"I personally selected the name for that base to typify the cooperation between America and South America: 'Dong Tam' [Common Effort]."\*

Furthermore, that general admitted that he had used chemical warfare against our people. He said:

"Chemical defoliants were used to kill the enemy's rice in remote areas controlled by the enemy. Although the border between the government-controlled area and the area under Viet Cong influence was not clear, that type of defoliant was frequently used. No one is certain whether the defoliant causes biological damage, how much harm it does or what its long-range effects are."

In the morning of 30 April, in that Dong Tam base there was held an urgent meeting between the command of the puppet 7th Division and the neighboring subsectors to discuss "defending to the death." They thought that the fortified defensive works and complicated barbed wire fences left behind by the Americans could save their lives. At noon they ordered the regiments still north of Cai Lay and Chau Thanh to pull back to that base. The armor was spread out along Route 4 to direct the troops. However, while withdrawing back to the base many of the troops deserted. Others deserted when they returned to the base and saw the chaotic conditions. All along Route 4, up to the road leading to Gate 2, everyone who met the armed soldiers asked, "Why do you want to die when you can enjoy the peace? Why are you still armed?" or, "Saigon has fallen, didn't you know that? My goodness! The Dong Tam base can never hold out against the liberation troops. You should go home and take care of your affairs!" Furthermore, when the troops pulled back the people followed them into the base. By 1900 or 2000 hours guerrillas had infiltrated the base. Around midnight provincial troops and troops of the military region were also inside the base. All of the puppet officers and men deserted or were captured. By 0000 hours on 1 May the "Dong Tam" base was completely liberated.

In all of the Mekong Delta provinces there were similar attacks and uprisings. The tempo was greatest on 29 and 30 April and 1 May. Although Saigon had to surrender unconditionally at noon on 30 April and the puppet IV Corps command surrendered late that day, the leaders of the puppet regime and army in the provinces continued to put up an obstinate resistance, to "hold out" in hope of obtaining U.S. aid.

But because of the storm-like attacks and uprisings of the armed forces and revolutionary masses, some of the enemy were killed, others surrendered or deserted, and nearly all of the provinces were completely liberated on 30 April and 1 May.

At the command headquarters of the Ho Chi Minh Campaign we had readied a powerful force of infantry, tanks, field artillery and antiaircraft artillery to

\*From Westmoreland's memoirs "A Soldier's Report."

move down into the delta to help the soldiers and people of Military Regions 8 and 9 to rapidly wipe out the enemy troops who were still obstinately holding out. We understood very clearly that after the head of the puppet army and regime in Saigon had been smashed, and the Americans had to climb up to the rooftops to flee, the decisive blows had been struck to completely liberate all of South Vietnam. But the liberation of Saigon did not mean that the other places would automatically be liberated, that we had to do nothing but sit and wait for the ripe fruit to fall into the basket.

During his last days Thieu said to his subordinates, "If we lose the east and Saigon we must by all means concentrate the remaining South Vietnam, withdraw into the Mekong Delta and make a stand there. We must defend the islands to the south more tightly.

"Can Tho will be the capital of the Republic of Vietnam."

In fact, Saigon had surrendered but the puppet troops were still holding out at Dong Tam and Can Tho, and even after Can Tho surrendered the puppets in some localities still hoped to hold out. If we had not taken steps in advance to smash the plot to form an enclave in the delta, and if we had not had a revolutionary strategy which combined a series of attacks and uprisings by combined political-military forces, it is certain that the situation would have become even more complicated. The soldiers and people of the Mekong Delta, who realized at an early date their historic responsibility of arising to liberate their home areas, shed much blood in the final battles. Following the wise guidance of the party and coordinating their fighting with the Saigon front, the delta provinces simultaneously attacked and arose. Some provinces were liberated before Saigon, and some were liberated at the same time. When the central puppet administration had to surrender unconditionally, millions of soldiers and people, taking advantage of that valuable opportunity, stepped up their attacks and in a period of only 2 days, 30 April and 1 May, liberated nearly all of the delta provinces.

The combined arms force we had made ready in eastern Nam Bo did not have to engage in combat. Both the 8th and 9th military regions sent messages to regional headquarters: "We can handle things by ourselves." Indeed, the delta, using its own forces, efficiently mopped up the enemy troops and liberated itself.

Military Region 9 by itself took the headquarters of the enemy's Military Region IV, liberated the "Western Capital" [Can Tho], and coordinated in a timely manner with the Ho Chi Minh Campaign by cutting the Mang Thit canal and strategic Route 4, and interdicting the large airfield in Can Tho.

On 25 April the Military Region received Message No 693/ZN(24-4) from the Regional Command:

Beginning on 28 April the Military Region must resolutely attack and cut Route 4 at many important points, which have already been designated. Also beginning on 28 April, we used sapper units to carry out continuous small and large attacks on the Tra Noc airfield, accompanied by the use of mortars and

artillery to interdict the runways and control tower so that the enemy cannot take off from or land at that airfield. Then, if conditions permit, attack and take the city of Can Tho."\*

On 28 April the Military Region, obeying the order of the Regional Command, continually shelled and attacked the airfield, and on the morning of 30 April, when Duong Van Minh was announcing the surrender, the military region's main-force 20th Regiment launched a direct attack on the airfield and took the Tra Noc airfield at 1400 hours on that day. All of the enemy troops there surrendered, including the command of the 21st Infantry Division and the 4th Air Division. We captured 113 airplanes of various kinds.

Meanwhile, in the city of Can Tho the political cadres led the masses in an uprising to take the subwards in the center of the city: An Cu, An Nghiep and An Hoa in Precinct 1; An Hoa and An Thanh in Precinct 2; and Binh Di hamlet and Xa Long Tuyen in Precinct 3, etc. Our troop proselyting infrastructure, along with the people, took the radio station at 1415 hours and broadcast the revolution's appeal for the puppet troops to surrender.

At 1500 hours on 30 April the armed forces of Military Region 9 tightened their encirclement of and directly attacked the headquarters of the puppet IV Corps. Faced by a hopeless situation from which there was no escape, the puppet general Nguyen Khoa Nam, commander of Military Region IV, had to surrender. A few hours later he took his own life, ending a dirty life of a lackey. We took all of the city of Can Tho during the night of 30 April.

Then the command of Military Region 9 used 24 M113 armored personnel carriers that had just been captured from the enemy and some trucks to take the main-force 101st Regiment toward Long Xuyen and Chau Doc, the last places in the Mekong Delta to be liberated. But it was not strong military forces alone that resolved the complicated situation in that area. There was also clearly manifested cooperation between attacks and uprisings and between military forces and mass political forces. That clearly reflected unity between the intentions of the party and the hearts of the people, and the strength of the revolutionary case.

It was not true that that entire area was liberated late. On 25 April Thanh Binh District, on the eastern bank of the Tien River, was liberated. Then all of the enemy in the area east of the river was mopped up. The rest of the enemy withdrew to form an enclave at Hong Ngu but, because of our pressure, they had to surrender at 0800 on 1 May.

At Chau Doc City, during the night of 30 April the enemy in the subsector was ordered to withdraw to the "Hoa Hao Holy Land" to fight to the death. Before they withdrew they set fire to the treasury and to the documents and files, but the local people put out the fire in time, saving 11 crates of money and papers and files needed by the revolution.

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\*Document of the Military Science Office of Military Region 9.

The "Hoa Hao Holy Land" was the prayer-and-sacrifice place of the Hoa Hao religion in the village of Hoa Hao, the birthplace of the person who founded that religion: Huynh Phu So. The village was situated on the Vam Nao River, a small river which connected the Tien and Hau Rivers. The puppets had relied on a number of bad people among the leaders of that religion, who took advantage of the Buddhists and Hoa Hao adherents by concentrating a million followers in that area to carry out a long-range patriotism and opposition to oppression of the adherents, most of whom were working peasants. They also could not understand the roots of the religion and the true aspiration of the "Master" (i.e. Huynh Phu So). In 1964-1947 Huynh Phu So, a scholarly man with a long neck and bright eyes who had regarded me as a friend and had believed in and accepted by explanations regarding the revolution, and who had often confided in me many times during our meetings. I was then commander of Military Region 8 in Dong Thap Muoi during the anti-French resistance war. Huynh for a time lived in the base area with me. Huynh confided in me, "I am a patriot. I can't stand France's expropriation of our country and its oppression of our people. But how can we resist? I worry myself sick night and day. If only I had met you earlier so that I could know what path to follow." He paused, looked at me, and said smilingly, "But it's not too late." Then he continued, "I thought out one way: many of our people are still superstitious, so I founded a religion to rally the people and trick the French and their secret police. Once we have large forces we will be strong, and then we will act and regain our country." He again paused, appeared to be deep in thought, and said, "Now that I have listened to you, I think you are right and I believe you. Only if the whole country, tens of millions of Vietnamese, act in concert can we succeed. If one stresses duty to our homeland our people, who have always been patriotic, are certain to work together in fighting the French.... It's true that we shouldn't let our people be superstitious forever...." Regrettably, later, after being away from us for a while, he was exploited and dominated by bad people, who tried to pull him far from the path he had found. Then when he died the bad people used his name to exploit his followers. But the just cause always triumphs. That is a truth.

So the enemy troop remnants went from those places to the "Holy Land" and formed an enclave there with more than 10,000 troops deployed in battlefield positions.

After we liberated Tan Chau near the Kampuchean border 1st Battalion and 2d Battalion of the local provincial troops, along with the district troops, advanced into the "Holy Land" along two routes: the eastern bank of the Tien River and the eastern bank of the Hau River. When the 2d Battalion neared Kinh Xang An Long and was about to cross over to Cu Lao Tay the enemy fired furiously to stop it. The unit also lacked means to cross the river. The people mobilized boats for our troops. They also sent a number of old men and women and the families of the troops in advance, directly toward the enemy positions, to appeal for them to surrender. The enemy fled. Our troops crossed safely. The 2d Battalion went to An Phu, killed a number of the enemy, and established contact with the other column so that they could attack the main enclave. The time was 1400, 2 May. When our troops were reorganizing their formation in preparation for the attack Miss Ut Nhang, a member of the provincial party committee in charge of proselyting among the religious adherents

and had always lived in that area, arrived and said that "The enemy is confused. You must attack this afternoon." She went in advance, encouraging the people to cooperate with our troops in putting pressure on the enemy and encouraging the puppet troops to surrender. Miss Ut Nhang met and won over Luong Trong Tuong, one of the Buddhist-Hoa Hao leaders. Tuong surrendered to the liberation troops. Our troops entered the area. More than 10,000 puppet troops laid down their weapons and surrendered. We mastered the entire area by 1700 hours on 2 May.

But that was not the end. A number of obstinate troops fled to join forces with a larger, more heavily armed group of enemy troop remnants which had formed an enclave at the old Tay An pagoda in Cho Moi District, also calling themselves the Buddhist-Hoa Hao Army.

Before dealing with that enclave we liberated the city of Long Xuyen, an attractive city with many modern buildings on the bank of the Hau River. There, teacher and student circles paid an important role in the uprising movement to take power.

At noon on 23 April the teachers and students took over the schools and punished the tyrants who had oppressed and arrested them over the course of many years. Then, making use of the existing infrastructure, they took the communications station, the treasury and an enemy artillery base. Revolutionary flags which had been hidden were brought out and flew everywhere. The people were encouraged to sew others. They immediately organized armed forces, which were equipped with some weapons captured from the enemy. The situation became complicated after Radio Saigon broadcast Duong Van Minh's unconditional surrender statement, when a number of bad elements, reactionaries and opportunists, taking advantage of the fact that our troops had not yet arrived, carried out a coup in the name of the Hoa Hao. Thus in the city of Long Xuyen there were two uprising forces: the uprising people and the so-called "uprising Hoa Hao." The latter group, which was fully armed, began to pillage and seek revenge. The people's armed forces were weak and they had not yet made contact with our troops on the outside. The teacher-student forces, which controlled the communications center, contacted Can Tho and requested aid. They also sent some people with great prestige in the city to meet with the coup leaders and tell them, "Don't be so stupid! You are only a small group of people and cannot stand up to the liberation troops. You will only cause the people of Long Xuyen to have to continue to shed blood at a time when all other places, including Saigon, are at peace and happy. The whole nation will soon be at peace, so why should you create more enmity? Tanks from Can Tho will be here soon. The people have filled the streets waiting to greet the liberation troops. If you take a look around, you will know what you must do."

"How far away are they now?"

"About 6 or 7 kilometers."

Then they ordered their forces to disband. Weapons were strewn all over the place and their ranks disintegrated. Most of the enemy mingled in with the people. Some went to join forces with those at the Tay An pagoda.

Long Xuyen was completely liberated at 0900 hours on 2 May.

As for the Tay An pagoda, the enemy had planned in advance that if we attacked and liberated the other places they would concentrate in the "Holy Land" and the Tay An pagoda. When the "Holy Land" was lost they regarded the pagoda as their final redoubt. There were an estimated 14,000 fully armed puppet troops there. In addition, many boats carrying weapons, equipment, food, etc., were anchored on the river. The pagoda area became crowded and there was not enough space or water for any more troops.

But the pagoda's board of governors, which was made up of old men and truly religious people, was unwilling to accept such a misdeed. They said, "There is an opportunity to restore peace. That is the aspiration for peace that was cherished by the founder of our religion and passed on to his followers everywhere. Therefore, continuing to shed blood is contrary to his wishes." The Hoa Hao people agreed with them. Furthermore, when the ragtag troop remnants assembled there were many instances in which the people were subjected to robbery, rape and murder and were even worse off than when they were under the control and suppression of the puppet regime. The popular masses, under the leadership of the revolutionary cadres in the surrounding area, arose to shatter the local administration, disband the civil guards, confiscate weapons, fly revolutionary flags, hang up banners proclaiming "Political power to the people," and encourage the enemy troops to lay down their arms and return home to earn a living and avoid being killed. Rumors spread that the liberation forces were coming from Sadec, Long Xuyen, and Can Tho on foot, on tanks, on naval boats, etc. The enemy leaders were terrified and highly confused. In fact, they could no longer command their troops, who had become a disgusted and completely demoralized lot. They fled, every man for himself, with the people helping them to flee and pointing out escape routes. Within an instant that mob had dissipated as quickly as foam.

On 6 May 1975 the bright red liberation flag above the Tay An pagoda flapped in the breeze. The last place in the B2 theater of South Vietnam had been liberated.

While we attacked and arose on the mainland, there were also uprisings and attacks on the islands. The two largest, most important islands in the south were Con Son and Phu Quoc. Because of their strong naval and air forces the enemy regarded those islands as being their safest places. They had transformed those islands into enormous prisons. Tens of thousands of patriots were imprisoned and mistreated, and many died there. Those beautiful places, with rich natural resources and cool sea breezes, had for many years been places full of resentment and hatred, and the people there only waited for the day they could tear asunder the jails and smash their bonds.

On Con Son, as well as Phu Quoc, in March and April 1975 there was no lack of encouraging news coming from the mainland. In the political prisons the inmates had concealed small radios and continually monitored each of our victories and each place that had been liberated. The comments of the puppet officers and enlisted men were also sources of inspiration: "The liberation troops have taken Phuoc Long"; "The Central Highlands have been lost"; "Lam

Dong Province has been lost"; "They are so strong and their artillery is very long-range and very accurate, and one shell can blow apart a house.... Their tanks crush everything beneath them, and no American tank can stand up to them"; "I hear that all their weapons are Russian.... Maybe they have already sent submarines here."

On 30 April, in political prison camp No 7 on Con Son a number of our people were gathered around a radio listening to a Radio Hanoi broadcast: "Saigon has been liberated.... Duong Van Minh, the puppet president, has surrendered unconditionally." The news quickly spread through the camp. Meetings were held to analyze the situation and discuss what to do. Suddenly the door opened and a few puppet officers, no longer arrogant, stuck their heads in and said, "Did you know that Saigon has been liberated? There's no longer any reason to keep you in here." Doors were opened all over the camp and the inmates poured outside. The liberation flag and the gold-starred red flag, which had been secreted away, were raised on the flagpole in front of the camp. Our people went to camp No 1, then to all the other camps. A sea of people swirled about and a forest of flags fluttered in the breeze. All over the island there arose an atmosphere of celebrating the victory, giving rise to bright rays of peace.

Con Son was completely liberated at about 1600 hours on 30 April.

A liberation committee was set up to temporarily manage the island and wait to establish contact with the mainland.

Meanwhile, a naval convoy we had to send to liberate the island was spreading across the South China Sea.

Phu Quoc Island was nearer the mainland, was larger, and had a larger civilian population. Over the course of many years the local party organization had built up a resistance war base, had continually led the masses in struggling against the enemy, had organized an armed force amounting to almost a company, and actively coordinated in attacking the enemy during the spring of 1975. At Duong Dong we shelled and attacked many enemy outposts, forced the abandonment of one outpost, and overran a police station. On that island most of the prisoners were our cadres and men who had been captured on all fronts. They had often retaliated against the cruel puppet troops and many groups had escaped from prison to come to the base area, listened to their reports on the situation in the prison, set forth action guidelines, and provided facilities for them to return to the island to work and serve as an echelon connecting the island with the upper echelon. The enemy continued to take the struggle movement there lightly, perhaps because they thought it was small, weak, isolated and easily suppressed. Thus they still regarded the island as their last safe haven. On 20 April, when Saigon was under strong pressure, the CIA immediately sent all personnel, families, and equipment of the secret CIA-operated radio stations codenamed "House No 7" to Phu Quoc Island. Those five stations, which broadcast in both Khmer and Vietnamese and included "Sacred Sword Radio" and "Sweet Mother Vietnam," were located at No 7 Hong Thap Tu Street (now Nghe-Tinh Soviet Street). Thus the code designation "House No 7." Those stations, which were very reactionary and anticommunist and the contents and

forms of which were determined by the CIA, were intended to weaken the morale of patriotic Vietnamese and were yet another weapon used in Kissinger's insidious plots to win total victory and keep South Vietnam forever as a new-style U.S. colony. Kissinger himself had ordered the formation of those stations after the Paris Agreement was signed. That reflected the insincerity of Kissinger and Nixon when they signed the peace treaty and also the U.S.-puppet sabotage of the Paris Agreement.

But those stations and the thousands of people who had recently gone there had to be put aboard U.S. ships and flee to Guam at the end of April.

At noon on 30 April the forces inside the prison and our armed people outside the prison coordinated with the local people in arising, wiping out guard towers, dismantling the prison, routing the puppet troops and taking power on the island. The revolutionary administration took over management of the island at about 1700 hours on 30 April.

Later, a number of puppet naval ships and some Hoa Hao reactionaries also came to the island with the intention of forming an enclave there. But we had already liberated the island, so they again fled and some of the puppet ships returned to their base and surrendered.

Thus the entire island, which was separated from the mainland, also attacked and arose to liberate itself very early, in the afternoon of 30 April 1975.

The entire B2 theater had fulfilled its historic mission. The soldiers and people of B2 had confidence in, and closely followed, the leadership of the party in maintaining the tradition of revolutionary struggle with two legs, three spear-heads, and attacks and uprisings, from the jungles-and-mountains area to the delta and islands and from the rural areas to the cities, including Saigon, the puppet capital. The soldiers and people of B2, who always remained loyal, were the first to go and the last to return, and are justifiably proud of being a Bulwark of the Homeland.