

NYTimes MAR 22 1975
CND
**Hanoi Reports Sweeping Gains
By the Vietcong Over 2 Weeks**

TOKYO, March 21 (AP)—The Hanoi Radio said today that within the last two weeks the Vietcong had taken over approximately a quarter of South Vietnam with a population of nearly one million. It also said that they had established governing bodies in Ban Me Thuot, capital of Darlac Province in the Central Highlands.

"Saigon is conducting extermination bombings of many of the district towns and provincial capitals abandoned in recent days by Saigon troops," the broadcast asserted.

"Musclemen are also being used to compel people to follow the retreating army. Hundreds of thousands of people have been rushed into disguised concentration camps newly built with U.S. aid, in the provinces of Tay Ninh, Thua Thien, and Quang Tri."

It said that the Vietcong had seized nearly 10,000 guns, including 100 artillery pieces, thousands of tons of ammunition, 600 military vehicles, among them nearly 50 tanks and armored cars.

"About 1,100 other military vehicles were destroyed, some 40 aircraft were shot down or destroyed on the ground, and aircraft engines were blasted," the broadcast added.

Ban Me Thuot Described

HANOI, North Vietnam, March 21 (Agence France-Presse)—The radio of South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government, in a broadcast monitored here, today gave an account of life in the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot, which was taken by the Communists last week.

"Flags, placards and posters have appeared in all neighborhoods," the broadcast said. "On every wall is written the watchword: 'nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.'"

"People are acclaiming the new power," the broadcast went on. "They welcome back former residents of the town who had left to fight in the underground, especially a Popular Forces colonel who came back after 20 years."