

# GIAP ANALYZES VIETNAM VICTORY

JUL 11 1975

He and Aide Say U.S. Could

Not Have Saved Saigon

NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 10, (UPI)—North Vietnam's two top ranking generals, in a lengthy analysis of the Communist victory in South Vietnam, say that even direct American intervention could not have prevented the Saigon Government from toppling this year.

Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, the North Vietnam Defense Minister, and his deputy, Gen. Van Tien Dung, said in a 20,000-word article that surprise, speedy tactical troop movement and the classic military siege defeated the million-man South Vietnamese Army.

The two men said that fast decision-making at the Hanoi command centers and the battlefield enabled the military to follow up gains quickly and consolidate forces for more attacks that led to the fall of Saigon April 30.

But good planning and a strong rear area, they asserted, made victory inevitable "even in case the United States dared use military forces to renew their aggression against our country."

The article has been carried in serial form in official Hanoi and Saigon newspapers during the last week.

Generals Giap and Dung handed out credit all around for the victory—to the Communist party members, guerrilla troops and political and diplomatic officials.

The two generals pinpointed the time that the decision was made to go for all-out victory last spring. They said the decision was made after the Saigon Army's retreat from the Central Highlands, which began March 16.

Former President Nguyen Van Thieu ordered that retreat, reportedly so that his troops could stand and fight another day at the more populous lowland cities, but the retreat quickly became a rout.

"After our big victory in the Highlands," General Giap and General Dung wrote, the Communist party "quickly discovered the new situation and the new opportunity, and immediately advocated the carrying out of the anticipated plan"—an all-out drive to capture Saigon.

"We made the correct assessment: The enemy was facing the danger of complete disintegration and our capabilities of winning final victory rapidly have come true. The revolution of our country now was expanding at the speed of one day compared with 20 years in the past."

At that point also, the generals said, the possibility of American intervention was weighed again by the military and political leaders.

"Our party asserted that even if the United States dare participate in the war once again we would determinedly advance to win because we had all the conditions necessary to secure final victory," they wrote.

One of the keys to victory, they asserted, was good preparation of rear areas and transportation. Troops rode to battle in trucks and thus were able to move quickly to new battlefields when the opportunities came.

Other factors were said to be the use of siege tactics and the ability of the Communists to concentrate huge numbers of men at important battlefields while maintaining pressure on other areas, thus preventing the Saigon troops from reinforcing.