

Offensive Is Called A Vietcong Triumph By Peking and Hanoi

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HONG KONG, April 4—China and North Vietnam have acclaimed the new Communist offensive in South Vietnam as a major triumph for the Vietcong and a blow to President Nixon's policy of Vietnamization.

Reports from Peking and Hanoi on the fighting did not say that troops from North Vietnam were involved, crediting the offensive solely to the "people's liberation armed forces" of South Vietnam.

Hsinhua, the official Chinese press agency, said the Vietcong had launched "repeated fierce attacks on the military bases and establishments of the U.S.-puppet clique in the northern part of Quangtri Province." It stated that since last Thursday the enemy—the South Vietnamese — had been "badly battered and compelled to take to his heels and retreat helter-skelter."

Newspapers in Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam, reported that the fighting had resulted in "resounding victories" for the Vietcong and 7,700 casualties for the Saigon Government's forces. A dispatch of North Vietnam's official news agency said that Hanoi papers had carried detailed accounts of the fighting under big headlines

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MOVING SOUTH: Woman balancing child and possessions as refugees, estimated at more than 50,000, poured into Hue, ancient capital of Vietnam, from homes in Quangtri.

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together with maps and photographs.

The Communist offensive follows recent calls in North Vietnam for "total victory." The phrase was used by Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, North Vietnam's Defense Minister, in a report to the National Assembly last month and more recently during a visit with President Ton Duc Thang to the Signal Corps of the army.

Fighting Near Hue Reported

The North Vietnamese papers asserted that the "people's armed forces" of South Vietnam had killed, captured or wounded 6,500 enemy troops on the Quang Tri-Thua Thien front and "wiped out" 1,200 others in the area southwest of Hue.

Nhan Dan, the principal organ of North Vietnam's Communist leadership, declared that the Governments of the United States and South Vietnam were

"ear-deep in a profound all-round crisis."

"They are in a position of losses, passivity, difficulty and decline in both the military and political fields in the mountains, the countryside and the towns," Nhan Dan said. "The current developments on all the battlefields show, among other things, the great predicament of the U.S. aggressors and their stooges."

The paper said that the "puppet army" of South Vietnam was unable to act as the backbone of the United States policy of Vietnamization and was "literally stretched out on the ground." It added that all the components of the Vietnamization plan were being "hammered loose."

"Swift, Stunning Blows"

An editorial in Quan Doi Nhan Dan, the official organ of the North Vietnamese armed forces, said it had been the hope of the American and South Vietnamese commanders

that blockhouses, underground bunkers and strongholds and maximum air support by the United States might help the Saigon Government troops hold out against the onslaught of the Vietcong.

"But facts are hard," it went on. "The Saigon puppet army could not resist the swift, stunning blows of its adversary. Its lines have not only bent, as Nixon has had enough foresight to predict. They, in fact, have been broken through and smashed by chunks."

The paper said that the victories of the Communists in the Quangtri-Thuathien sector constituted a "very heavy blow to Nixon's Vietnamization plan." It stated that the United States and South Vietnamese had suffered a severe setback "right where they thought they were strongest."

Alert Reported by North

HANOI, North Vietnam, April 4 (Agence France-Presse) — Quangbinh, the North Viet-

namese province bordering on the demilitarized zone, has been placed in a state of alert, the North Vietnamese press agency reported today.

It said the provincial command had mobilized regional army militia and self-defense groups to prepare for any eventuality. Training exercises in antiaircraft and antitank warfare have begun and the forces are also preparing for possible assaults by helicopter-borne or amphibious commandos, the agency said.

The 10th Coastal Artillery Battery and a detachment of women gunners are training to fire on enemy ships, according to the agency's report. The dispatch said that 60,000 young people had been mobilized and were ready to take up arms.

Large quantities of wood have been supplied by forestry services for shelter-building, which is going on throughout the province, the agency said.

Large Gatherings Banned

Shelters have been built in state-run shops and at bus stops, and all gatherings of more than 30 people have been banned because of the danger of bombing, the agency reported. It said that administrative personnel had set up first aid stations and had gathered together documents in preparation for quick evacuation in case of combat.