

**The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged
only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them.**

— MAO TSE-TUNG

Laotian People Ride the Waves of Victory

by "RENMIN RIBAO" COMMENTATOR

HEARTENING news of victories keeps coming in from the battlefield in Laos. The patriotic armed forces and people of Laos, displaying the spirit of fearing no fatigue and fighting continuously, have scored impressive successes in their extensive raids on the enemy following their big victory at Nam Bac. Their heroic actions, which dealt heavy blows at U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, have brought about a new situation in the Laotian people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

Over and over again in the past few years, U.S. imperialism has widened its war of aggression in Laos. It made a big effort to groom and equip the army of the Laotian Right-wing, assumed direct command of the war of aggression by moving in large numbers of military personnel and sending pirate aircraft to bomb the liberated areas in Laos. Undaunted and growing stronger with each battle, the patriotic armed forces and people of Laos rolled back successively the attacks by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen. Since the beginning of this year, they have done magnificently in a series of battles and liberated many important posts. They have smashed the enemy scheme to "nibble" away at the liberated areas, and have thus greatly consolidated and expanded these areas.

Our great teacher Chairman Mao Tse-tung has pointed out: "... in the course of this long and cruel war guerrilla warfare will demonstrate its immense power; it is indeed no ordinary undertaking." This truth has been eloquently borne out by the splendid victories won by the people of Laos in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

In 1967, the patriotic armed forces and people of Laos wiped out nearly 16,000 enemy troops in more than 1,800 actions. In the first two months of this year, they engaged the enemy in over 100 actions and annihilated or routed more than 5,000 of his troops. In this way the Laotian people have been eliminating the enemy bit by bit, bringing into full play the immense power of guerrilla warfare. If they persevere

in long-term warfare and accumulate small successes to add up to big victories, they will gradually be able to change the relative strength of the enemy and theirs and will finally and thoroughly defeat U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

As on the Vietnam battlefield, where it faces its doom after suffering defeat after defeat, U.S. imperialism in Laos, too, is in a hopeless plight — one in which it is being badly and continually mauled on the battlefield. But still not reconciled to failure, it is putting up last-ditch struggles. To extricate itself from its predicament on the Laotian battlefield and to reverse the failure of its war of aggression against Vietnam, the Johnson Administration is working feverishly to step up its military adventure in Indo-China by planning to commit U.S. troops to Laos and have the Thai reactionaries send more troops for the invasion of Laos. The Soviet revisionist renegade clique, working hand in glove with the U.S. imperialists, is collaborating still more closely with the Laotian reactionaries in a vain attempt to strangle the revolutionary struggle of the Laotian people and the people of Indo-China as a whole. But all these death-bed struggles of the U.S. aggressors and their running dogs can only hasten their doom.

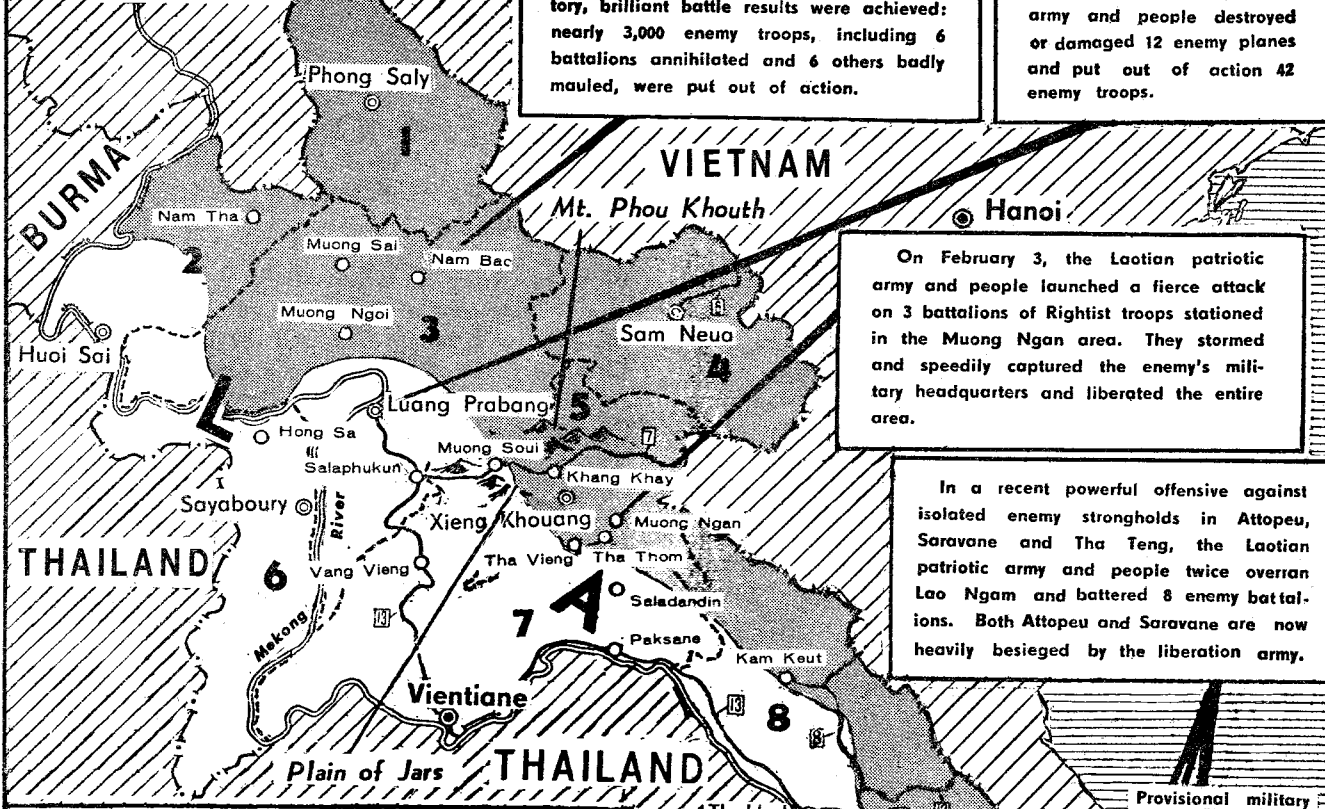
The Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat recently issued a solemn call which says, "People of all nationalities of Laos should grasp the present excellent situation, follow up their victories and wipe out the enemy." The heroic Laotian people will surely win final victory in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation provided that they fight still harder, and fight on to the end. The 700 million Chinese people who are armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought provide powerful backing for the Laotian people. They firmly support the Laotian people to carry the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation through to the end and to fulfil the great cause of national liberation!

(March 27)

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Strategic Nam Bac was liberated by the Laotian patriotic army and people on the night of January 14. In this major victory, brilliant battle results were achieved: nearly 3,000 enemy troops, including 6 battalions annihilated and 6 others badly mauled, were put out of action.

During a January 14 night raid on the Luang Prabang airfield, the Laotian patriotic army and people destroyed or damaged 12 enemy planes and put out of action 42 enemy troops.



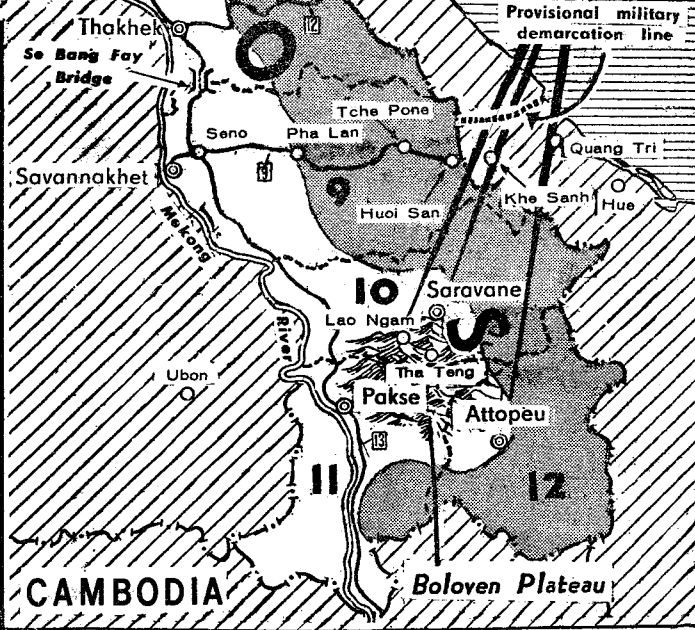
On February 3, the Laotian patriotic army and people launched a fierce attack on 3 battalions of Rightist troops stationed in the Muong Ngan area. They stormed and speedily captured the enemy's military headquarters and liberated the entire area.

In a recent powerful offensive against isolated enemy strongholds in Attopeu, Saravane and Tha Teng, the Laotian patriotic army and people twice overran Lao Ngam and battered 8 enemy battalions. Both Attopeu and Saravane are now heavily besieged by the liberation army.

Outstanding 1967 Battle Successes of the Laotian Patriotic Army and People



- Nearly 16,000 enemy troops annihilated.
- 287 enemy planes shot down or destroyed on the ground.
- 48 enemy military vehicles captured or destroyed.
- 82 enemy launches or powered boats sunk.



- The numbers on the map indicate the provinces as follows:
- 1. PHONG SALLY 2. HUOI SAI 3. LUANG PRABANG
 - 4. SAM NEUA 5. XIENG KHOUANG 6. SAYABOURY
 - 7. VIENTIANE 8. KHAM MUON 9. SAVANNAKHET
 - 10. SARAVANE 11. PAKSE 12. ATTOPEU

Major Liberated Areas

Provincial Boundaries

Highway No.