

Armed Struggle in Southeast Asia

THE revolutionary armed struggle of the people of various Southeast Asian countries is surging forward vigorously. It is an integral part of the present world revolutionary storm against U.S. imperialism and its running dogs and an important sign that "revolution is the main trend in the world today."

Excellent Revolutionary Situation

The great revolutionary teacher Lenin pointed out: "The basic question of every revolution is that of state power." The bourgeois state can be superseded by the proletarian state (the dictatorship of the proletariat) "only through a violent revolution." Under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist Parties and organizations, the revolutionary people of the Southeast Asian countries have integrated the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of revolution in their own countries, firmly opposed "peaceful transition" and the "parliamentary road" advertised by the modern revisionists, and persisted in the revolutionary road of seizing political power by armed struggle and encircling the cities from the countryside, thus making the raging flames of revolutionary armed struggle in Southeast Asia leap higher and higher.

Inspired by the victories successively scored by the people of the three Indochinese countries in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the people of Burma, Thailand, Malaya, the Philippines, Indonesia and North Kalimantan successfully persevered in and developed their armed struggle in the past year. The people of these countries have continuously smashed the enemy's counter-revolutionary "encirclement and suppression" operations with revolutionary armed force and increased their own strength in the course of fighting, thus pushing ahead the development of the revolutionary situation in these countries and all Asia.

Fighting in unity, assisting and closely co-ordinating with each other, the people's armed forces led by the Communist Party of Burma and the armed forces of various national minorities in Burma have in recent years smashed more than ten large-scale counter-revolutionary military "encirclement and suppression" operations, expanded their operational areas and tied down large numbers of enemy troops, bringing about a new situation in the revolutionary armed struggle in Burma. In the past year, the Burmese people's armed forces unfolded guerrilla warfare widely in different parts of the country, fought more than 400 battles and wiped

out large numbers of enemy. Since the beginning of this year, the people's armed forces of Burma have launched many attacks on the reactionary troops and police in Pegu, the Irrawaddy Delta and other places. They blew up enemy trains and intercepted enemy trucks and ships, causing the reactionary troops and police to run hither and thither in a quandary.

The Thai People's Liberation Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of Thailand has unfolded armed struggle in the vast areas of over 150 districts in more than half of the country's provinces and set up base areas and people's power in many places. In the past year, the People's Liberation Army and people of Thailand fought more than 600 battles with the U.S. and Thai reactionary troops and police in various places throughout the country. They wiped out over 1,100 enemies, shot down or damaged more than 50 enemy aircraft of various types and demolished over 20 enemy posts. The Thai People's Liberation Army's ability in annihilating the enemy is improving steadily. On April 5, the People's Liberation Army with the energetic support of the local people wiped out about 50 enemies in one engagement in Terng District, Chiang Rai Province, northern Thailand.

Fighting in northern Malaya, the Malayan National Liberation Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of Malaya has persisted in guerrilla warfare and valiantly struck at the enemy through ambushes, mine warfare and other tactics. Last year, the Malayan National Liberation Army wiped out more than 400 enemies and shot down or damaged four aircraft in their fight against the enemy's military "encirclement and suppression" operations. Recently, the Malayan National Liberation Army achieved new successes in fighting. In an engagement on April 13, the Liberation Army fighters wiped out over 40 enemies in northern Kelantan near the Thailand border.

The Philippine New People's Army under the leadership of the Philippine Communist Party has carried out armed struggle vigorously and grown in strength rapidly. In a little over a year since its founding, the New People's Army fought more than 80 battles with the reactionary troops and wiped out over 200 enemies. From May to July last year, the New People's Army smashed the "mopping-up" operations in Central Luzon conducted by thousands of enemy troops and police and wiped out over 50 enemies. At present, the raging flames of armed struggle have spread from the Capas area

in Tarlac Province to other provinces in Central Luzon, and to North and South Luzon as well as to other rural areas.

In Indonesia, the Indonesian Communist Party is heroically persisting in armed struggle in various parts of the islands of Java, Kalimantan, Sumatra and Sulawesi.

The people's revolutionary armed forces in North Kalimantan have become stronger in the course of fighting in the past year. They repeatedly smashed the military "encirclement and suppression" operations launched by the Malaysian and Indonesian reactionaries, dealing hammer blows at the enemy. They established revolutionary bases in places in the First, Second and Third Divisions of Sarawak, extended the guerrilla areas and promoted the widespread development of the North Kalimantan people's revolutionary movement.

Co-ordinating With and Supporting Each Other

"The just struggles of the people of all countries support each other." Co-ordinating with and supporting each other, the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation waged by the people of the three Indochinese countries and the revolutionary armed struggle of the people of other Southeast Asian countries have dealt heavy blows at the U.S. imperialist policies of aggression and war.

Since May last year, the Thai patriotic armed forces and people have mounted frequent attacks on the reactionary troops in provinces bordering on Laos and Cambodia and along the Mekong River and forced the U.S.-Thai reactionaries to discontinue the building of several strategic highways at a great speed in northern Thailand. When the U.S. imperialists embarked on a new military adventure by massing south Vietnamese puppet troops and Thai accomplice troops for an invasion of Laos this year, the Thai patriotic armed forces and people valiantly launched attacks on the reactionary Thai troops and police in vast areas in northern and northeastern Thailand near Laos and Cambodia and gave powerful support to the three Indochinese peoples in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

The armed forces and people of Malaya and Thailand in the border areas who have forged a militant friendship in the protracted struggle against U.S.-led imperialism and the reactionaries have fought in closer co-ordination in the last few years against the joint "encirclement and suppression" operations waged by the reactionary Malayan-Thai troops and police. Since the second half of 1970, the patriotic armed forces and people in provinces in southern Thailand have unfolded armed struggle vigorously and extended their guerrilla zone, thereby pinning down large numbers of reactionary Thai troops and police and effectively supporting the struggle waged by the Malayan National Liberation Army against the enemy's "encirclement and suppression" operations in the Malayan-Thai border areas.

Similarly, the new victories of the Malayan National Liberation Army in their counter-attacks have also encouraged and supported the Thai people's revolutionary struggle.

The smashing of the U.S.-Philippine reactionaries' large-scale "mopping-up" operations between May and July, 1970, by the Philippine New People's Army effectively co-ordinated with the three Indochinese peoples' war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation.

Giving Full Play to the Factor of Man

The great leader Chairman Mao points out: **"Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor; it is people, not things, that are decisive."** This great truth is vividly borne out by the successive new victories scored by the people's revolutionary armed forces of the Southeast Asian countries in their fight against the reactionaries in their own countries who are armed to the teeth with up-to-date weapons. The reactionaries in the Southeast Asian countries, scared out of their wits by the revolutionary armed struggle of the people there, often send thousands or tens of thousands of reactionary troops and police together with aircraft, artillery and tanks to launch frenzied attacks on the people's armed forces. But modern weapons cannot save the reactionaries from their doom. Armed only with such weapons as rifles and mines, the people's revolutionary armed forces in these countries, by giving full play to the factor of man, have again and again defeated the enemy's attempts at military suppression. They reduced the enemy's up-to-date weapons to heaps of scrap iron and are advancing victoriously in the fight against the enemy's "encirclement and suppression" operations.

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The revolutionary people of various countries in Southeast Asia have deeply realized from their protracted revolutionary struggle that so long as they persist in the revolutionary path of encircling the cities from the countryside and seizing political power through armed struggle, the revolution will advance, but if they acted to the contrary, the revolution will suffer setbacks. Under the leadership of Marxist-Leninist revolutionary parties and organizations, the revolutionary people of Southeast Asian countries have actively unfolded armed struggle in recent years. The people's armed forces in various countries have grown from small to big and from weak to strong, won new victories successively and brought about an excellent revolutionary situation with their guns.

Revolution is developing and the people are advancing. Holding aloft the red banner of armed struggle, the people of the Southeast Asian countries will definitely surmount all difficulties on their road of advance, defeat U.S. imperialism and the reactionaries of their own countries and seize victory in the revolution.