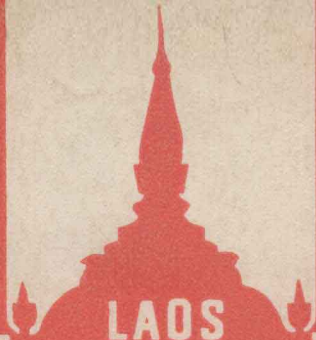


2

**A HISTORIC VICTORY
OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FORCES
ON HIGHWAY 9 -
SOUTHERN LAOS**

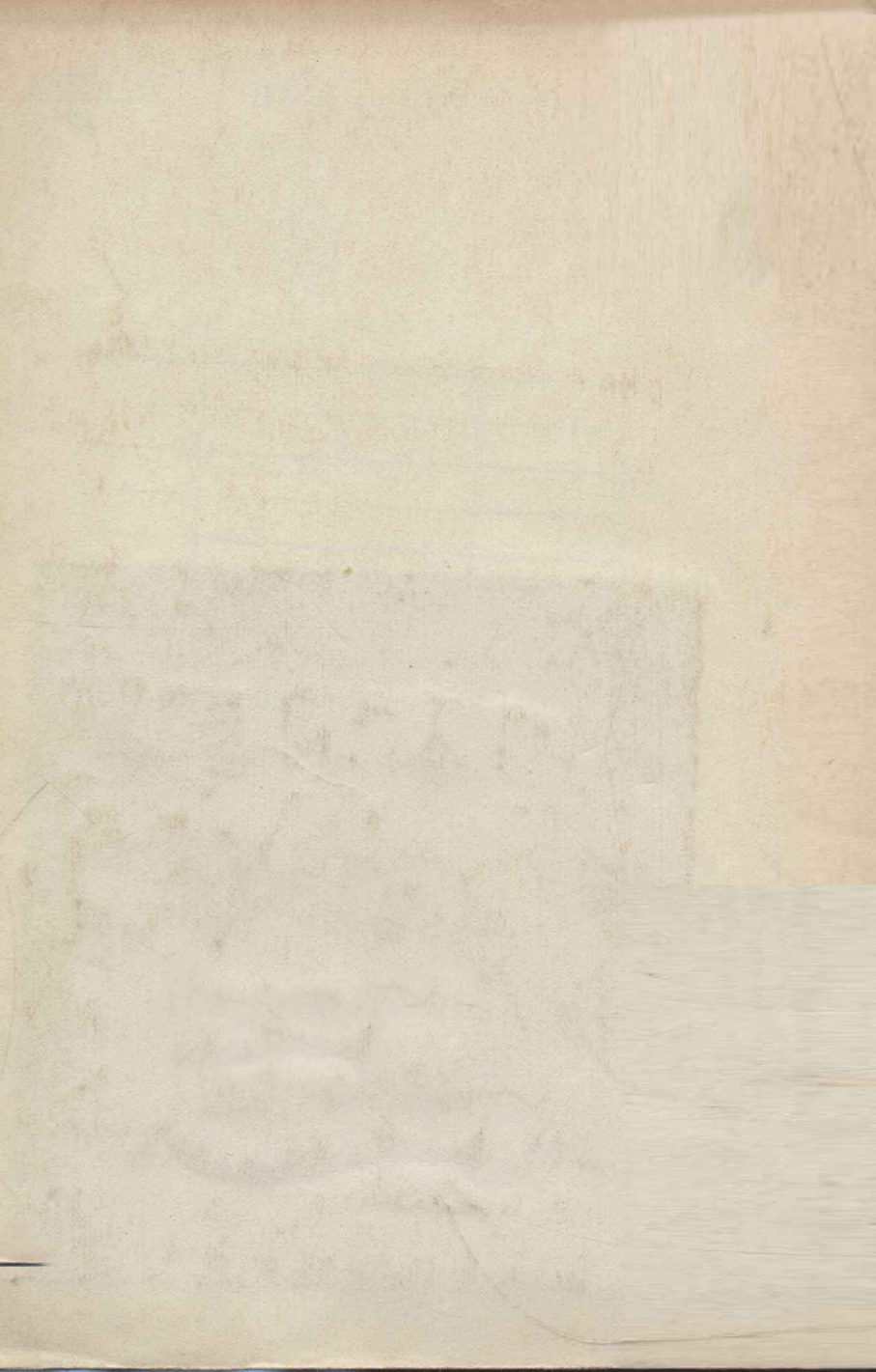
NEO LAO HAKSAT



2

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**A HISTORIC
VICTORY
OF THE LAO
PATRIOTIC
FORCES**

ON HIGHWAY 9—SOUTHERN LAOS

NEO LAO HAKSAT

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*High
significance
of a
great
victory*

The victory on Highway 9 and in Southern Laos has gone down into history as a landmark showing a new development of our resistance and that of the Indochinese peoples against US aggression.

We are very proud of our armed forces and people of various nationalities who have pooled their efforts in a monolithic unity and shared joy and suffering to achieve this glorious exploit. We express our deep gratitude to the armed forces and peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia who have fought side by side with our people against the common enemy, the US imperialist aggressors.

In the hope of finding an issue to the impasse of the "Vietnamization" of the war, the American aggressors and their Saigon lackeys have foolishly mounted Operation "Lam Son 719" dubbed "Dewey Canyon 2". To

undertake this military venture, they have mustered 45,000 battle-seasoned US-Saigon troops, together with over 2,000 aircraft of all types, 700-800 vehicles and more than 320 heavy-caliber artillery pieces — including the second echelon in Central Viet Nam. Americans and Saigon puppets were determined to win a great military victory so as to snatch a favourable turning-point. With such great efforts and huge numbers the American brasshats thought they could very readily display their battle-array to get direct to Tchepone, wresting an initial success to advance westward in order to reach the set objectives.

But this foolish plan has been upset. After over 50 days of diligent efforts — from January 31 to March 23 — the US Saigon troops could not go further than Ban Dong and, at last, they have suffered a complete and pitiful failure. None of the set objectives has been reached: they have not been able to enter Tchepone, neither to cut off the communications and the supply of the adversary, nor destroy his storages, nor weaken the revolutionary forces. On the contrary, their troops have disbanded without being able to escape the murderous blows of the Lao people's liberation troops.

Our victory on Highway 9 and in Southern Laos is first and foremost a military victory of a very great impact. It shows that the global strength of people's war can perfectly crush the military might to the aggressors in a large-scale strategic operation.

The armed forces and people of Southern Laos, displaying a spirit of unrelenting offensive and firmly keeping the initiative of operations, have dealt the US-puppets

thundering blows right when the latter crossed the border; they have pinned them down in Ban Dong, interdicting their entry into Tchepone. Then, after successively shattering the enemy's northern and southern columns, the Lao people's liberation troops have cut to pieces his main column on Highway 9, completely foiling his aggressive operation.

After 40 days of heroic combat — from the day the enemy crossed the border — our armed forces and people have annihilated one after the other many adverse battalions among the "tough" ones, wiped out or decimated Saigon brigades and regiments, foiled the main US-puppet tactics, and, at last, driven more than 20,000 aggressors out of Lao territory; they have dealt thundering blows at the strategic mobile forces of the Saigon puppet army supported by maximum US firepower and logistics and backed by US infantry. Tchepone town, the liberated zone, our bases as well as our storages, transport and communication lines have been preserved. Moreover, the Lao revolution has won success both in the North and in the South, developing and consolidating its strategic assets.

Our victory on Highway 9 and in Southern Laos constitutes a murderous blow at the "Nixon doctrine" aimed in making Indochinese fight Indochinese, and at Nixon's policy of "Vietnamization" of the war.

The Nixon clique has brought the aggressive war in Laos to a very high level. After their pitiful failure in using the Vientiane right-wing troops, the Vang Pao pirates and the Thai mercenaries, the Americans have been compelled to send Saigon puppet troops against

Laos in the hope of winning a victory for their “special war”.

By mounting Operation “Lam Son 719” the US aggressors wanted to prove the “independent power” of the Saigon puppet troops and the certain success of their “Vietnamization” plan. But the “test” has ended in disaster for the Saigon troops and in drama for the “Vietnamization” of the US war.

Our armed forces and people on Highway 9 Front and in Southern Laos have annihilated 2 regiments and 4 brigades, badly mauled several other brigades, wiped out 15,400 enemy troops (including 200 GIs), captured 1,000 others (among them many officers), downed, destroyed or captured 491 aircraft (helicopters for the most part), wrecked or seized 586 vehicles (of which 318 tanks and armoured cars), 44 heavy-caliber artillery pieces... Thus, over four-fifths of the invaders and almost all their vehicles and artillery pieces have been wiped out; as for the helicopters downed or destroyed, their number is slightly inferior to that of aircraft initially mobilized, that is more than half the highest figure of aircraft used in the operation.

Mention must be made that the annihilated outfits belonged to the cream of the Saigon army: paratroops, marines, armoured cavalry, rangers, regular infantry. In most cases, they have been wiped out after they had been dug in rather solid defence works, or even after they had been regrouped in thick groups of points d'appui—like in Ban Dong—enjoying a maximum US air support and backed in their rear, in nearby Vietnamese

territory, by about ten thousand GIs. This has not prevented all the puppet troops in the US pay in Laos, in South Viet Nam like in Cambodia, from being thrown into disarray and panic. The Saigon army, shock force and main trumpcard of the Yankees against the Indochinese peoples, has been completely defeated. How could the Vientiane mercenaries, the Vang Pao pirates and the Lon Nol puppet troops escape defeat in face of the militant and fraternal bloc of unity of the armed forces and peoples of Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia?

Our victory on Highway 9 and in the South of our country is due to our judicious revolutionary line, a clear-sighted leadership of the war, a brilliant strategic and operational guidance, and a penetrating tactical command. These factors imply a mastering of the rules of war, an accurate appraisal of the enemy's strategic and operational intentions, the timely choice of the favourable moment and propitious conditions, the clever solution of difficulties, an ad hoc organization of forces, and a detailed material preparation of combats. Thanks to this direction, our fighting forces have been able to keep the initiative of operations throughout the campaign and materialize the strategic aim of the Supreme Command, thus driving the large-scale operation of the Yankees and their Saigon lackeys into complete fiasco.

Our victory on Highway 9 and in Southern Laos has testified to the outstanding progress made by our armed forces and people. Tempered by a protracted resistance fertile in trials, our people's armed forces have shown their high combat skill, striking power,

ability to fight with energy without let-up, to wipe out a whole regiment, a whole brigade and even several brigades in a single engagement, controlling the battlefield, capturing many prisoners and seizing many weapons; they have fought by day and by night, co-ordinating the action of several arms on a large-scale.

They have promoted revolutionary enthusiasm, brilliantly displaying their will to fight and to win, their combat style full of courage and stamina, as well as their dynamism in the co-ordination of various arms and outfits. They have evidenced the high political conscience of their officers and men.

Thanks to their mastering of military art, they have been able to apply the techniques and tactics of people's war in a living and creative manner, bring into full play the potential of their weapons and material, and cope with all situations. At last, our victory has scored the progress of our armed forces as regard organization and command in a co-ordinated combat, which has enabled them to cleverly apply different fighting modes and become highly efficient in all engagements. The power resulting from all these factors has allowed our people's armed forces to foil the main tactics of the Americans.

Our victory has also revealed what can give the close unity between the rear and the front. The encouragement ~~and sustained~~ reinforcement coming from our entire people have galvanized the combatants at the front, making them more determined and stronger to fight and to win.

The victory on Highway 9 and in Southern Laos is a common victory of the Indochinese peoples united in

the struggle against US aggression. It is due partly to the invaluable support and assistance extended by our brothers and friends throughout the world to our people and the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia.

Our entire people are proud of this glorious exploit. They are proud of our invincible infantrymen, of our clever and accurate artillerymen, of our AA crews masters of the sky in all circumstances, of our sappers "blazing the path to victory", of our young tankmen throwing consternation among the adversary, of our combatants of special outfits with wonderful courage and brilliant deeds, of our staunch drivers who devote themselves body and soul to their duties, of our signalmen, of our scouts, of our gunsmiths, of our medical corps, of our cooks... who day and night selflessly serve the fight and their comrades-in-arms so as to contribute to the common victory.

Our glorious victory has created new favourable conditions for the struggle of our people as well as for that of the other fraternal peoples of the Indochinese peninsula. It has tilted in our favour the balance of forces between us and the enemy — the US aggressors and their lackeys.

Despite their bitter failure and their critical situation on all theatres of operations in the three Indochinese countries, the US aggressors remain very stubborn and bellicose. The struggle of our people, of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples remains long and arduous, but it will certainly end in victory.

A new physiognomy of the war, a new impetus have appeared since the victory on Highway 9 and in Southern

Laos. They vigorously stimulate our armed forces and people who enthusiastically forge ahead towards final victory.

“Our armed forces and people must sharpen their vigilance, tighten their unity, launch continual offensives on all theatres of operations in the impetus of our victory, fight with courage and tenaciousness until total victory.” Responding to this appeal by the Supreme Command of the Lao People’s Liberation Army, our armed forces and entire people are determined to combat side by side with the armed forces and people of Viet Nam and Cambodia, and drive the American imperialists out of the Indochinese peninsula to reconquer national independence, freedom and territorial integrity.

Let our armed forces and people valiantly march forward!

THE MOST IMPORTANT AGGRESSIVE OPERATION OF THE AMERICANS AND SAIGON PUPPETS COMPLETELY FOILED

In February and March 1971, our armed forces and people on the Southern Laos front, together with the Vietnamese armed forces and people on the Khe Sanh front in South Viet Nam, have fought valiant and ingenious combats, completely foiling the aggressive operation of the Americans and Saigon puppets in Laos dubbed "Lam Son 719".

We have won glorious victories of a strategic significance. These have greatly contributed to creating a new favourable situation for the patriotic struggle of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries against the American aggressors and their lackeys.

Huge forces at the service of foolish ambitions

While concocting the aggressive operation in Southern Laos, the US imperialists and their lackeye nurtured

very great ambitions. They aimed at destroying the revolutionary bases of our armed forces and people in Savannakhet province, cutting off our liberated zone, checking all relations of support and mutual aid between the peoples of the three Indochinese countries and weakening the resistance forces of our people and of the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia.

To realize these dark schemes, the US imperialists have unleashed against Southern Laos up to 50 US — Saigon infantry battalions belonging to the “most battle — seasoned outfits” such as the 101st paratroops division, the Americal division, the US armoured cavalry division, the puppet paratroops, rangers, marines divisions, the 1st and part of the 2nd infantry divisions. The Americans have also mobilized for this operation 4 regiments and 2 squadrons of the Saigon armour as well as 2 US armoured squadrons with over 400 tanks and armoured cars, 2 transport groups with 700 — 800 vehicles, 17 artillery battalions with 320 guns of various calibres (including the 2nd echelon based in South Viet Nam). Have participated in the operation over 2,000 aircraft of various types among which 600 — 800 helicopters, an air force unprecedented in any operation on the Indochinese theatres of operations.

The US imperialists and their lackeys thought that with so colossal forces they would easily crush us. They were so cocksure that they set a calendar for their operation as follows: February 8, 1971, border crossing; February 9, arrival at Ban Dong; and February 11, entrance in Tchepone. But they have met with the determination to fight and to win of our troops and