

Successes of 22 Years -- Revolutionary Struggle of the Lao People

Military Successes

a) Achievements of 9 Years of Struggle Against the French Colonialists:

3,000 battles were fought in which 17,000 enemy soldiers were put out of action including 1,000 officers (from subalterns to field officers) and 20,000 firearms of various descriptions and over 300 tons of military equipment seized.

b) Achievements in the Struggle Against the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen:

—From 1954 to the end of August 1967, 79,000 enemy soldiers were wiped out including 31,440 killed, 18,690 wounded and 28,870 who were captured or surrendered. Thousands of tons of arms and ammunition were seized.

—Between May 17, 1964 and September 21, 1967, 665 U.S. aircraft were downed or destroyed.

—Over 30 motor-boats and craft were sunk or set ablaze.

Building of the Liberated Areas

From 2 regroupment provinces (Phong Sa Ly and Sam Neua) in 1954, the liberated areas covered in 1962 two thirds of the Lao territory with half the country's total population. Laos was a backward agrarian country with a poor economy and a declining culture (in 1943 she had only one secondary school, 6,000 pupils of general education, 1 doctor and 200 hospital beds). Now, in 5 years of national construction, the liberated areas alone have recorded the following achievements:

Agriculture: Up to now 40 small and medium-size hydraulic works have been built to irrigate 8,000 hectares of ricefields. After the success-

ful experiment made in 1965 on the cultivation of the winter-spring rice, at present 5 provinces boast two-crop fields (by tradition, the Lao peasants used to grow one rice crop per year only).

Handicrafts: Within a short period of time, 16 enterprises have been built in the liberated areas such as weaving and rice husking mills, ready-made clothing factories, earthenware, motor-car repair workshops, etc.

Commerce: Communication lines have been repaired and developed. State shops have been set up in all districts, to supply means of production and other goods directly to the people (including minority people) and buy forest and agricultural products from them.

Culture and Education: There are 824 general education establishments including 7 secondary schools (with 2,500 teachers and 37,000 pupils), 3 elementary teachers' schools, 1 secondary teachers' school, 4 schools to train teachers for infant-classes. Since 1963, 550,000 text books have been printed. The Lao language is taught in primary and elementary schools. The Meo script has been popularized.

Health Service: There are in the liberated areas:

—10 centrally-run or provincial hospitals with 850 beds and specialized departments, a widespread network of infirmaries, first-aid stations and maternity homes, and a dozen mobile medical teams.

—Over 200 doctors, assistant doctors and pharmacists and 4,000 nurses.

—A number of drug-stores producing over 10 tons of medicines a year (one third of which is made from local materials).