

The people's forces that participate in the national security defence movement are also mainly the forces that are implementing the village's central tasks of transforming and developing agricultural production comprehensively and stabilising the people's life in the economic, political, cultural and social fields.

In leading the movement, the village authorities have determined the critical and important areas in order to consolidate the movement gradually, limit loopholes and negativism, definitively deal with weaknesses and constantly develop the mass movement, making it continuously firmer and stronger. The local authorities have also improved the tasks of controlling people and households, building safe hamlets with good security and order and classifying specific objectives to be watched. Some 43% of the political objectives have been transformed satisfactorily and 22% of the criminals have been transformed into honest people. Some 60% of the violators of socialist assets have repented. The activities of criminals are much decreased.

In combination with suppressive measures, the village authorities have satisfactorily applied various forms of deterrence by bringing delinquent elements before the people for public education. Hundreds of superstitious people such as mediums and fortune tellers have also been transformed. The national security defence movement has actually transferred vigorous changes from within the party to among the masses. The people have provided hundreds of valuable items of information that help defeat the enemy and detect criminals and negativism. They have in particular helped the public security forces suppress, mop up and destroy counter-revolutionaries in dozens of circumstances during which 55 of them, together with many weapons and important documents, were seized and 71 others surrendered themselves with weapons and explosives. The people have also provided documents enabling the public security forces to detect and prevent 219 cases of economic crimes and arrest 275 violators, recovering millions of dong for the state.

In past years, political security and public order and security in Trung An village has been firmly maintained. An all-people battle plan has been established for all the villagers to participate in while defending security, thus developing the integrated strength of the whole party and people in the struggle to defeat the enemy's multifaceted war of sabotage.

In Brief

Guidance must be given for criticism drive in Hanoi (Text of report from press review) On page 1 'Hanoi Moi' reports that the Hanoi municipality self-criticism and criticism guidance committee standing committee has urged district and town party organisations to strive towards providing proper guidance in satisfactorily conducting self-criticism and criticism in wards, villages, public security units, grain and food stores, and so forth. It is necessary to pay great attention to helping grass-roots party committees make reports and conduct self-criticism properly and thus influence thoughts and opinions. Public security, grain and food services and the districts and wards must remedy shortcomings immediately, do what can be done, and closely co-ordinate such important and urgent tasks as fighting waterlogging, eradicating brown planthoppers, and so forth. (Hanoi home service 1000 gmt 31 May 86)

Sect Members Fight Red Rule in Mekong Delta Area

BY GEORGE McARTHUR

Times Staff Writer

NGKOK, Thailand—Almost 10 years after the collapse of the Saigon government a significant resistance force—possibly numbering several thousand men—continues to operate in the Mekong Delta province which is headquarters for the Hoa Hao religious sect.

A somewhat surprising admission came last week from Hanoi radio, which broadcast an account of military efforts in An Giang province, hard by the Cambodian border, "to counter remnant forces."

The Hanoi broadcast made no direct mention of the Hoa Hao movement. It referred only to "diehard" forces. In an Giang, however, such people are almost certainly Hoa Hao members.

The Hoa Hao is a Buddhist offshoot combining Buddhist philosophy and nationalism with a sort of rural socialism.

Its leadership claimed 3 million adherents. The actual membership was doubtless far less than that, but it was nonetheless a powerful force and was

totally dominant in An Giang province.

In the turbulence which followed World War II, the Hoa Hao founder and prophet, Huynh Phu So, joined briefly in the anti-French popular front headed by Communist leader Ho Chi Minh. In the bitter political infighting that followed, however, the Communists murdered the prophet in 1947. Thereafter the Hoa Hao were diehard anti-Communists, even though they also were often troublesome to the Saigon government.

Following the collapse of the Saigon government, the Hoa Hao leaders who had been politically active were all jailed or sent to reeducation camps.

It is thus hardly surprising that resistance sentiment remains strong in An Giang. What was somewhat surprising is the scale of resistance indicated by Hanoi radio, a scale exceeding the estimates of Western intelligence specialists.

The Hanoi radio report mentioned only one district, Cho Moi, of An Giang province, and quoted the district

commander, Capt. Dang Huu Trinh, as saying, "The remnants of the puppet army here total tens of thousands, and fairly large numbers of diehard officers have evaded reeducation. Therefore, maintaining combat readiness is a matter of constant concern to the local armed forces and militia and self defense forces."

The emphasis of the broadcast made plain that the military preparedness was largely directed against "remnant forces" and not incursions from Cambodia, although these have taken place.

The troop commander of the district, identified as comrade Hai Man, said, "There are 23,000 puppet army and administration personnel here. Many of them have stubbornly evaded reeducation. Some have finished reeducation but are unwilling to work honestly for a living. Reverting to their old ways, they have continued to oppose the revolution and the people. Therefore, standing ready for combat in Cho Moi district is one of our permanent tasks."

The broadcast said that in the 12 months prior to November, 1977, the armed forces of Cho Moi "captured 250 puppet army remnant soldiers, killed 35 others and persuaded 15 others to surrender, seizing 50 guns of various types, 5,000 rounds of ammunition and grenades and four radios."

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