



Some experiences in building the revolutionary base of the southern central bureau (1961-1975)

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Abstract

Since its establishment, inheriting the cause of the Cochinchina Party Committee, being the highest level of Party Committee in the South under the Central Committee of the Party, playing a direct role in the all-people, comprehensive, long-term, self-reliant resistance war in the South, the South Central Bureau (SCB) had to cope with war strategies of a drastic, long-term and complex level. The task of building and re-developing the strength of the revolutionary forces in the South required SCB to give appropriate guidelines and direction in a timely manner; one of the most important tasks was to build, protect and promote the role of revolutionary base (RB) in the South. SCB's leadership in building RB has left valuable lessons for the Vietnamese revolutionary cause.

Keywords: revolutionary bases, the southern central bureau, lessons

Introduction

Based on the actual conditions of the locality to build a local revolutionary base according to the suitable method, type and scale to the characteristics and requirements of each battlefield.

The South and the South Central of Vietnam have a rich and diverse geographical area, which is the main battlefield of the resistance war against the United State between us and the enemy. The leopard morph always appeared interwoven throughout the territory of B2. In order to deal with the enemy and build a resistance rear, SCB had directed each zone, based on the actual conditions of the locality to choose and build RB with its own scale and characteristics to serve the needs of the battlefield. Since then, a rich and diverse network of RBs had been established throughout B2 covering many types, sizes and functions, thereby creating a synergistic rear force for the resistance war.

In the mountains and forests, where old forests and rubber forests covered, SCB directed to consolidate and build large-scale RBs such as Duong Minh Chau war zone, Đ war zone, etc to become a basic area for the headquarters, the main army, the construction of hospitals and clinics, the construction of factories and warehouses for storing weapons with large reserves.

In the delta, RBs were established on a small and medium scale, but there were also large bases such as Dong Thap Muoi, U Minh, etc., with vast terrain of rivers and melaleuca forests, primeval mangroves flooded for protection. U Minh, Dong Thap Muoi were built to become war zones with extremely important functions, tasks and roles. The rest are mainly RBs built in the coastal areas, tunnels, the fighting villages to form the belts of American destruction such as Ba Vu, Bau Thom, Bung 6 communes, Thanh An Loc, Cu Chi tunnels, etc. with the task of hiding weapons, protecting officers and taking care of wounded and sick soldiers on the spot.

In urban areas, the occupied areas by the enemy and building military bases and warehouses, SCB considered this to be a springboard right in the heart of the enemy, setting up small bases which were people's houses, factories, printing houses, underneath there were shelters for officers

and commandos to live and become the weapon stores when attacking. Small bases like bomb blocks in the heart of cities.

In the coastal area, taking advantage of the dense, luxuriant terrain, many small coves, SCB created the RBs that have the function of receiving and transporting goods to safe bases. Simultaneously, the Special Zone of Rung Sac was established as the function of training commandos of the main army.

Thus, SCB had continued to develop the experience of building RBs of our ancestors to a new level. The RB is usually built in highlands where there are difficult geographical conditions, hills, deep forests, dark caves, both defensive and offensive. However, since leading the resistance war against the French, especially against the American in The South and the South Central of Vietnam, SCB led the entire people and the whole army to create many types of RB with different protection sizes and forms, made them not only in high mountains, deep and dangerous forests, but also in the ground, right in the heart of the enemy, took advantage of all natural conditions and conquering nature to create a safe base to meet the requirements, mission of each region in the resistance war.

On the basis of the main function of each revolutionary base, focusing on building a strong base comprehensively in terms of politics, military, economy, culture and society.

Firstly, to consider building a strong political base as a top important task.

SCB followed the Party's policy of building the revolutionary base from building, consolidating and expanding the political unit. From a strong political unit, it developed into secret armed units, developed the armed struggle, turned the temporarily occupied area by the enemy into a guerrilla zone, which was an area of dispute between us and the enemy, and then moved to establish guerrilla bases, thereby forming revolutionary bases for the revolution. Political unit -> guerrilla area -> guerrilla base -> RB. However, when the power and force of the revolution

was strong enough, SCB would quickly expand the liberated area and build RBs.

In political development, SCB continued to consolidate and reorganize the Party leadership apparatus at all levels, build and strengthen the Party organization, and strengthen the Party's leadership. Party units became strongholds at the bases in the face of all difficult situations, fiercely clinging to the ground, clinging to the people to maintain the revolutionary situation. The establishment of the government system from the provincial, district, and commune levels had been consolidated in a timely manner, which had directly solved many local tasks, improved management and administration capacity in the base area.

Secondly, to build revolutionary bases with strong military forces.

Building military bases and developing the people's armed forces are a matter of law in war. SCB well led people publicity and mobilization to develop the people's war widely and strongly, and encouraged people in and out the base to stand up and join the armed forces to fight the enemy by all available weapons. In the militarization of the entire people, SCB, in addition to political and ideological mobilization, also focused on organizing the training for the people in the base on the way of eating, living and working, producing in the style of militarization, making the people and cadres always in a position of readiness to promptly respond to all the enemy's sweeping and raiding tricks with fierce scales and forms. Since then, SCB had built up a force of three armies in the RB. The militia and guerrillas, the local army and the main army grew stronger, and coordinated operations to create victories that changed the battlefield.

Thirdly, to build an economic base to ensure on-site service.

The all-people, comprehensive, long-term, self-reliant resistance war required a long-term economic potential, thereby ensuring the initiative of on-site logistics to serve the revolution. SCB applied specific measures to exploit 4 economic potentials:

The first potential was to actively promote food production to ensure self-sufficiency, self-reliance to ensure the life of the people and mobilize contributions to the revolution and resistance war. Agricultural associations organized labor exchange, simple cooperative groups, launched the movements of "year-round planting, four harvest seasons", trying to promote food production. Along with wet rice, upland rice, cadres, soldiers and people of RB also grew crops such as corn, tapioca, beans, sesame, forest vegetables, etc., develop handicrafts of knitting and weaving, making pottery... Especially, SCB, the Party Committees also set out very resolute requirements for officers and soldiers of agencies, and army to strive for self-sufficiency in production according to specified target. Every year, the combat forces must produce at least 3 months, the rear armed forces agencies produced at least 6 months, where favorable conditions must be fully self-sufficient. Along with boosting production, SCB paid great attention to production protection and crop protection.

The second potential was to expand the exchange of goods between our area and the controlled area by the enemy. Although SCB always promoted self-sufficient production, the cultivation faced many difficulties. Therefore, SCB was

interested in buying, selling, and exchanging goods by legal means between our region and the enemy's region through disputed areas. Until the war ended, purchasing became the activity that created the largest source of material for the bases, contributing to meeting the needs of the battlefield.

SCB's third economic potential is spoils. This is the main source of equipment for the district's local army and guerrillas, so in the RBs regularly organized battles to destroy large units, even at regimental level, collecting quite a lot of loot, even where the enemy fled, leaving the treasure almost intact. Our logistics teams quickly received, moved and stored to a safe place in the base.

The fourth potential is to take advantage of the support of superiors and the North's rear. This was an important economic source that was decisive to the resistance war in the South. In order to ensure the smooth receipt of reinforcements, and distribution to military zones in the RBs, SCB arranged strong logistics groups with large numbers of troops such as the Group 1500, K10, Logistics group in area 86, 770, 340...The logistics groups did well the construction of the large-scale, solid receiving yards, a system of guest stations, infirmaries, high-tech factories, transport teams, and transportation systems quickly released goods in all directions, promptly supplying to the battlefield. The reinforcement road 559, 759 was always cared for by SCB to build and protect to ensure reception from the large rear in the North. From 1961 to 1975, SCB received 74.9% of additional soldiers and 31.3% of material needs ^[1].

Fourthly, to build revolutionary bases on culture, education and health.

This is an indispensable content in building the RB, creating a new social image, the new regime make an important contribution to education, promoting patriotism, and encouraging the fighting spirit of soldiers and people in the war. SCB set out many policies and special directives, organized specialized agencies to serve the work of building culture, education and health for the RB such as the Publicity and Training Committee, the Civil Medicine Committee, thereby promoting the strength of the resistance rear. SCB not only took care of the material life, but also cared about the spiritual life and health of officers, soldiers, and people of the RB, thereby creating new classes of people in a new society. Those were the people who lived with ideals, determined to follow the revolution, sacrificed themselves to the resistance, fought for the independence, freedom and unity of the whole nation.

Revolutionary base construction is always associated with the task of protecting the revolutionary base so that it is always safe and solid in all situations.

The RB was the rear, was the place where the main army was stationed, was the shelter of the resistance headquarters, was the basis of our revolution. Therefore, in the American new war strategies applied in the Vietnam War, all efforts were made to sweep and destroy SCB's RB in order to level the base, destroy the headquarters and armed forces. The mission of protecting the base is SCB's top mission. In the defense of the RB, SCB set out comprehensively including political, military, economic, cultural and social protection in which the military was the main focus, both internal and external protection, and took the attack to defend. In the defense of the base, besides active defense by armed forces to attack the enemy, SCB also organized passive defense

such as protecting the people, protecting the headquarters, protecting the warehouse system, museums, hospitals, etc. The sweeps, landings, bombings or large-scale operations on our RB were broken, protected by our troops, and moved the headquarters to a safe place. SCB and all levels well implemented the RB protection right from the stage of selecting terrain to build the RB. RBs were often built under the protection of forests from old forests, rubber forests, mangroves, swamp forests to ensure confidentiality and avoid loss. For the floodplains that were often hunted by enemies, we organized reforestation. Each base has its own regulations about choosing a garrison location, closing agencies, regulations on accommodation, travel, protection of documents and property. Like the logging, building a house in the base took place in secret. Wood was harvested from far away, taken in many places; and houses were simple, temporary, and easy to destroy. Hoang Cam kitchen was used. In the base, there was always a system of traffic trench, A-shaped tunnels or tunnels for shelter. Agencies and units must not be close to each other to avoid losses when attacked by the enemy. The movement and travel in the base were also meticulously regulated, avoiding wandering around, affecting the anti-spying work. Many places in the base were named for secret.

The unique feature of SCB's RB guard was to continue to actively protect from afar, establish a multi-layered, multi-tiered belt, coordinate smoothly between attack and defense, strengthen the position of the people's hearts, and go deep into the region behind the enemy. The regulation with the inner and outer rings played an important role in protecting the resistance headquarters. To enter the inner ring, only soldiers assigned with specific travel paths were allowed to lead the way along some strictly regulated and controlled unique paths. The defense of the base also included the protection of the treasures of the revolution. Officers and soldiers were carefully selected, the way to the warehouse must be camouflaged. Warehouses must be built in a secret, dry place; there must be secret cellars. There were many small warehouses to divide goods, and at the same time built many reserve warehouses for easy movement and storage.

The protection of hospitals was considered a challenge, but SCB managed to overcome it. The hospital concentrated many wounded soldiers who were difficult to move quickly. Military medical industry used the method of decentralizing the military medicine by line, from the back to the front. Large hospitals were located deep in the base, a safe place, especially in Cambodia; smaller hospitals were located in the middle line; the front line was compact surgery teams, performing first aid duties.

Promoting synergy, relying on the position of the people's hearts and the connection and support of the whole system in building, protecting and promoting the function of the revolutionary base.

The heart of the people was the most important base, creating the strength of a war when having to deal with the most dangerous and powerful enemy at that time. The RB, no matter how safe and secret it was, without becoming a base in people's heart, it was difficult to survive. The unequal battle between our army and people and the US imperialism and the Saigon government took place extremely difficultly and arduously. There were times when it seemed that the base could not be restored, but the people's hearts were still there, the revolution still survived;

the base was re-established. SCB thoroughly grasped the policy of the Party and Ho Chi Minh, always upheld the strength of the people, thereby creating a really solid foundation of people's hearts to build and protect the RB.

Measures to attract people, establish forest villages, implement measures to win people to bring people to bases, attract people from the controlled areas by enemy to live on bases, care and help in all aspects for the people...actively contributed to winning the war, protecting the people, and resisting the enemy's divisive plots. SCB won the hearts of people in the South, solidified faith in the leadership of the Party, in the victory of the resistance war. People were ready to take care of units of a few dozen cadres to units of hundreds of people when the resistance war was growing. That's why with many bases, logistics was in the people; many of our bases cannot exist without the people. From large bases, promoting the battle of the people's hearts, SCB built a continuous system of RBs throughout the B2 battlefield. This was an important lesson in building RBs.

Conclusion

With the task of directly guiding and leading the people of the South against the US imperialism and their henchmen, liberating the South and reunifying the country, SCB always focused on building RBs and considered it an important, urgent task directly affecting the development of revolutionary forces. Contents of SC's building RB include: selecting areas, building a strong political base, developing self-defense forces and guerrillas, protecting bases, associating combat activities with construction, production development, logistics reserves, building a new social culture, urging, checking and reviewing. Since then, promoting the role of the RB of Vietnam as the foundation of the leading agencies of SCB, the Provisional Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, the Military Commission of the Region, etc., as a place to build the revolutionary armed forces, as a place to provide an important part of logistics such as food, medicine, and weapons, and as the area to receive aid from the North's rear and international friends. RB building contributed to strengthening the spirit of international solidarity, tightening the solidarity of fighting and helping each other of the revolutions of the three Indochina countries.

SCB's leadership of RB building has left valuable lessons and experiences, thereby continuing the nation's tradition of RB building, supplementing and developing in accordance with the circumstances and characteristics of the new situation, contributing to the theoretical treasure in building RB of the nation today and in the future.

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