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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 0600
11 March 1965

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL



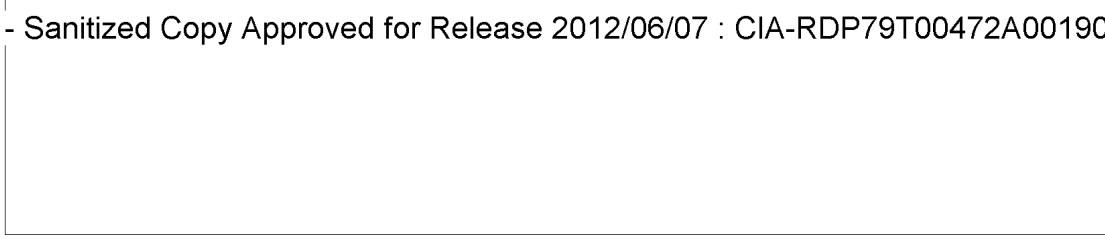
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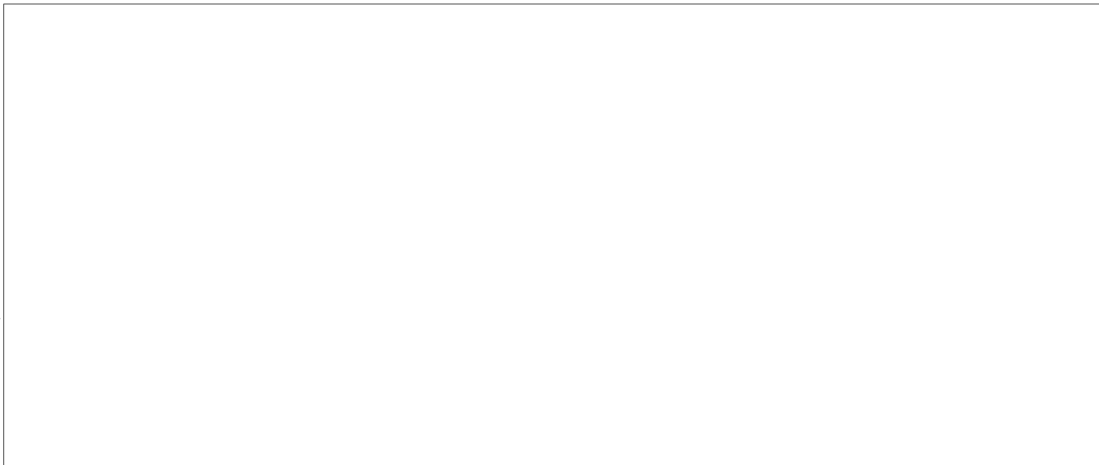


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
11 March 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

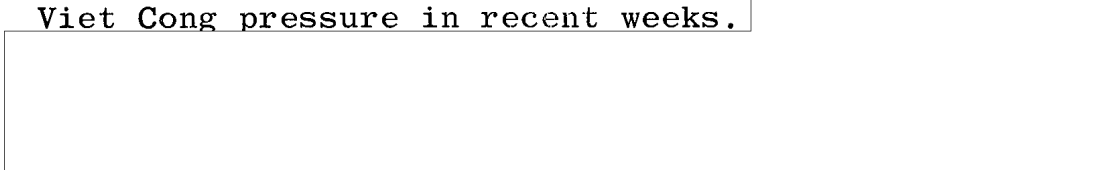
The Situation in Vietnam as of 0600 EST

Internal Developments in South Vietnam



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2. II Corps has come under increasingly heavy Viet Cong pressure in recent weeks.



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3. Premier Quat, meanwhile, is moving ahead with his efforts to get the central government moving again. He has scheduled a meeting in Saigon for 15-17 March to be attended by Vietnam's 50 province chiefs and 150 other provincial representatives. Quat hopes by this move to demonstrate that his government is trying to establish its influence over all of the people and to understand their problems. He also thinks that this conference might lead to greater acceptance of his government by the military.

Viet Cong Military Activity

4. Viet Cong military activity continues at a relatively high level, especially in the northern



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provinces, but no major engagements have been reported in the past 24 hours.

Communist Political Developments

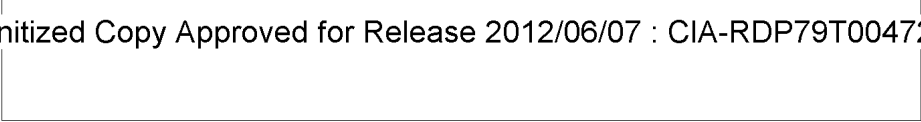
5. There has been no significant Soviet propaganda commentary on the Vietnam situation which goes beyond the standard themes and denunciations of US policy.

6. Peiping, in a 9 March broadcast, sharply criticized recent Indian proposals for negotiation of the Vietnam crisis, claiming that they were put forward to help the US out of its predicament in Vietnam. Peiping was particularly critical of an Indian government statement calling for suspension of "provocative" action by all of the parties involved. The broadcast included selected quotes from Indian press sources which stated that "spasmodic" US attacks on North Vietnam would be far from decisive and that the US militarily was at a serious disadvantage.

7. Hanoi propaganda on the situation in Vietnam continues along routine lines. Apparently to keep their record of protests against US acts intact, the North Vietnamese issued a new government statement on 10 March castigating the "direct commitment" of US forces to the war. The statement cited the landing of US marines at Danang and the use of US jets against the Viet Cong as examples. The statement did not, however, go beyond previous Hanoi pronouncements in promising Communist counter-action.

8. Hanoi also broadcast a Liberation Front Central Committee statement on 10 March which reiterated the Front position that the situation in South Vietnam can only be "stabilized" when the US has been "driven out of Vietnamese territory," a national coalition government formed, and the "stooge" administration in Saigon abolished. The Front statement called on the "people and Liberation Army" to "continue to deal deadly blows at the US aggressors."

9. The first public comments by a high DRV official since the US air strikes on the possibility of negotiating a settlement of the Vietnamese war



were issued in Hanoi on 10 March. The comments were made by the DRV defense minister Vo Nguyen Giap in an interview with a Japanese television delegation. According to Giap, the "only way out" for the US at present lies in the withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam and the cessation of attacks on the DRV. The Vietnamese people must then be allowed to "settle their own affairs" in accordance with the program of the National Liberation Front.

Communist Military Developments

10. No unusual movements of North Vietnamese, Chinese, or Soviet forces have been detected within the past 24 hours.



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