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March 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAT BUCHANAN
FROM: AL HAIG /SH/
SUBJECT: Requested Figures

As I mentioned to you on the phone, we have a host of varying estimates to deal with when we talk about North Vietnamese strengths in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. These estimates vary between CIA and DIA because of different techniques and sources and different dates as to when the estimates have been made. For this reason, Secretary Laird strongly recommends that the President avoid reference to specific figures.

Nevertheless, shown below are the most conservative figures carried by CIA and DIA on overall NVA strengths in the areas cited. The significant change from the figures submitted to the President earlier is an increase in Laos from the 90,000 reflected in the President's Foreign Policy Report to 95,000 in the figure reported to the President on February 16 to 110,000 now carried by CIA. This escalating figure is a result of the movement of reinforcements from both North Vietnam and in some instances from northern South Vietnam into Laos.

North Vietnam Strengths (All figures are approximations)

Laos:	110,000
Cambodia:	40,000
South Vietnam:	80,000

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