

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 1, 1972

TO GENERAL HAIG

AL: This is an interesting prospective which casts some doubt on the earlier estimates that most of the heavy equipment for the NVA comes in by rail.

RTK

*Ague -
HAK NOTE
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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

USAF review completed.

MORI/CDF per
C05081605

MORI/CDF Pages 2 thru 5 per C05081605

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

OBC
INFORMATIONSECRET

April 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: COLONEL KENNEDY
 FROM: T. C. PINCKNEY *TP*
 SUBJECT: NVN Imports

I was not satisfied with the recent CIA study of military aid to NVN, especially the statement below the last chart that most military imports come by rail, not by sea. Therefore, I asked Air Staff Intelligence to do a short study on North Vietnamese imports (attached).

Several points stand out:

-- Identified military aid sea cargo in 1971 was only 1,612 metric tons (twice the 1970 amount).

-- However, note the following categories. Sizable portions of each may well be of military use:

petroleum	390,200 tons
metals/products	143,300 tons
machinery/equipment	31,200 tons
transportation equipment	14,300 tons
<u>unidentified</u>	546,800 tons
<u>other</u>	166,400 tons

-- There is no accurate rail import data. This was confirmed by the Agency to USAF.

-- Rail amounts are strictly guesstimates.

-- The rough estimate for total 1971 rail imports is 300,000 tons, about 1/7 the sea tonnage.

-- Military equipment import by rail is guessed to be about 36,000 tons.

-- Thus, the guesstimated rail tonnage of military aid is about 20 times the identified sea total, but only a small fraction of the "unidentified" and "other" sea-shipped categories.

-- Haiphong handles 93% of all sea-shipped cargo.

cc: Mr. Holdridge

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21 APR 1972

TALKING PAPER

on

NVN IMPORT TRADE - 1971/72

-- For the year 1971, seaborne imports to NVN totaled a record high of 2,232,000 tons, representing an 18 percent increase over 1970 and eclipsing the record set in 1968 of 1,967,000 tons

-- North Vietnamese 1971 sea imports by commodity

(in Metric tons):

-- Food	615,700
-- Petroleum	390,200
-- Fertilizer	329,000
-- General cargo:	
-- Metals/products	143,300
-- Machinery/equipment	31,200
-- Transportation equipment	14,300
-- Unidentified	546,800
-- Other	166,400

-- Identified mil aid cargo imported by sea was

1,612 tons - double the 1970 volume. While much of the 546,000 tons of unidentified cargo was probably rice and other foods, some arms and ammo may have been included

-- NVN ports involved in seaborne import trade received the following levels in 1971:

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- Haiphong 2,086,000 tons (93%)
- Cam Pha 6,000 tons (0.3%)
- Hon Gai 15,000 tons (0.7%)
- Vinh 125,000 tons (6%)

-- NVN's seaborne trade in 1972 is expected to exceed 1971's record performance

-- Preliminary data on seaborne imports to NVN during the first quarter of 1972 are estimated as follows:

<u>Commodity</u> (Tons)	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Change from Comparable 71 period</u>
Food	70,300	65,400	52,200	187,900	Up 23%
Petroleum	58,000	61,300	33,500	152,800	Up 50%
Fertilizer	11,900	16,000	19,600	47,500	Down 58%
General cargo	<u>58,900</u>	<u>64,900</u>	<u>67,800</u>	<u>191,600</u>	<u>Up 16%</u>
TOTAL	199,100	207,600	173,100	579,800	Up 11%

-- The annual NVN import ratio between sea and estimated rail tonnages is guesstimated to be about 7 to 1

-- There is no hard accurate or complete rail import data to compare with relatively firm seaborne import data; however, unpublished analyst-to-analyst rough estimates for 1971 rail imports fall in the area of about 300,000 tons

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-- More than 85 percent of this estimated annual volume is considered to be economic in nature. Pressed to hazard a guess, one knowledgeable CIA analyst produced the following breakout for 1971 rail imports to NVN (*other than arms & ammo*):

- Coal 70,000 tons
- POL 15,000 tons
- Vehicles 25,000 tons
- General 150,000 tons (includes construction materiel, rail equipment, food, etc.)

-- Military equipment input via rail to NVN is estimated to be about 3,000 tons per month or about 36,000 tons of arms and ammo annually

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