

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

February 8, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE FILES

SUBJECT: Vietnam Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting,
January 29, 1971

DOS, ARMY, OSD
REVIEWS
COMPLETED.

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

MORI/CDF
C05099349

Ambassador Sullivan opened the meeting by bringing up the POW issue. He referred to the GVN's recent repatriation of 37 NVA POW's, and said that he thought it went well under the circumstances. He felt that Hanoi's response -- consisting of a mortar barrage and a charge that the DMZ had been violated -- was worth emphasizing, and he instructed Habib to take the DRV delegation to task for this in the next Paris session. Sullivan also felt that Foreign Minister Lam's new proposal for an exchange of all sick and wounded was a welcome development. Sullivan noted that this initiative now needed to be developed. He also announced that the VFW and American Legion would both be in Washington soon, and felt that the POW issue would certainly be publicized by them. Sullivan noted that he was scheduled to speak to the American Legion during its visit here.

Sullivan said that the Canadians had recently been quite helpful in refusing to allow a Vietnamese Communist delegation to make a radio broadcast from Windsor, Ontario (the Windsor radio station is popular in the Detroit area). Sullivan said that the Canadians were aware that the Vietnamese intended to broadcast more to an American listening audience than to Canadians, and therefore had decided not to allow the broadcast. The Canadians had done this, Sullivan said, without any prompting from the U. S. Sullivan said that he had also learned that the North Vietnamese were attempting to open an office in Ottawa, and that State would talk to the Canadians about this.

Sullivan announced that the progress report on combating anti-Americanism which had been previously requested by Dr. Kissinger was now complete and would be forwarded shortly. Engle then asked if all comments had been received on the Ad Hoc group's final draft regarding the GVN's administrative performance. Karhohs passed some written comments to Engle, but noted that he was unaware that this draft was the final version. Engle said that he certainly hoped it

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

SECRET/SENSITIVE

2

it was, and preferred to get everyone's final clearance later in the day if possible.

Sullivan announced that Labor Leader Tran Quoc Buu would be arriving in Washington on February 1, courtesy of the AFL - CIO. Sullivan had learned that Buu would like to have a complete medical check-up at some military hospital here, as he had in past years. Karhohs noted that the case load at Walter Reed and other facilities in the area was too great to insure that BUU would get an appointment. However, he said that Buu could easily have a check-up in Hawaii on his way to or from Washington. Sullivan thought that this was best, and asked Karhohs to make the arrangements.

Karhohs announced that Chuck Cooper would be in Washington on February 1 for a round of discussions on the Vietnamese economy. He said that he had scheduled a meeting at DOD on February 4 which would be attended by Mr. Enke, one of Cooper's strongest and most persistent critics. Karhohs gleefully predicted a rousing meeting, even though the subject would be economics.

Sullivan announced that he had seen Sir Robert Thompson the previous evening. He said that Sir Robert seemed especially well informed on current developments in Vietnam, and had fairly well determined how he would conduct his survey of the South Vietnamese police. Sullivan said that Sir Robert had also agreed to discuss his recommendations with us before presenting them to the South Vietnamese.

Carver noted that Life Magazine would run a story on U.S. POW's in its next issue complete with a new set of photographs recently taken by a Japanese film crew. Sullivan said that State had already seen the pictures; he said that everyone looked healthy, but that there were no new faces.

Carver then raised the question of North Vietnamese infiltration. He said that a good deal of concern had developed within the intelligence community during the past month or so over the infiltration rate. The exceedingly low infiltration total during January was difficult to rationalize. Although there were a number of possible factors and explanations, Carver said that the community frankly does not know what the real state of infiltration is at the moment, or why. A number of people are working on this problem, and Carver hoped to have some sound answers by the middle of February.

Carver noted a recent article in the North Vietnamese press which announced the jailing of a Hanoi rock band. Sullivan thought that this

SECRET/SENSITIVE

SECRET/SENSITIVE

3

development deserved some attention on VOA musical broadcasts to North Vietnam (i. e. , "we know you have lost your rock band, and we will do our best to fill in for them").

Sullivan then discussed the editorial on the Vietnamese refugee re-settlement program in the current issue of the New Yorker. He said that it was based on an erroneous story in the New York Times and had added a good deal of moralizing. The result was atrocious; it compared GVN refugee programs to the massive population transfers carried out under Stalin. Sullivan felt that we would have to make an effort to set the record straight.

25X1
25X1

NSSM 99 was discussed briefly by those members who are working on the project. Everyone was unhappy over the fact that NSSM 99 had gathered new momentum, with the analyses' projection dates having been extended. Karhohs expressed the fear that the paper would develop a life of its own and would never end.

SECRET/SENSITIVE