

INFORMATION

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Possible Viet Cong Consideration of a Cease-Fire

[redacted] suggesting that the Viet Cong may again be thinking about a cease-fire. As you may recall, there had been signs of this in 1969 but not through most of this year.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] the Viet Cong have recently intensified their efforts to move their legally documented cadre (i. e. those having a government identification card) into urban areas in preparation for political activities after a cease-fire.

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The time when the cease-fire might come is not specified. At one Communist party meeting it was announced that the war was "about" to end by a cease-fire and that the Viet Cong had to gain as many victories as possible in the third quarter of 1970 in order to be ready for the cease-fire. However, in another area in which the Viet Cong were told to build bunkers to protect their senior cadres from GVN activities after a cease-fire, they were told that those bunkers should be ready by the end of 1970.

In the latter case, [redacted] said that the cease-fire would be negotiated in Paris.

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I am calling this to your attention because it is the first report of this kind which we have had in a long time. Other material suggests that Hanoi is preparing its forces for protracted guerrilla warfare. We will obviously need to wait for further evidence.

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JHH:WRS:bib 8/19/70

ACTION

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August 19, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: Possible Viet Cong Consideration of a Cease-Fire

indicating that the Viet Cong may again be preparing for a cease-fire.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memorandum to the President (Tab A).

Attachment

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