

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION  
December 28, 1970

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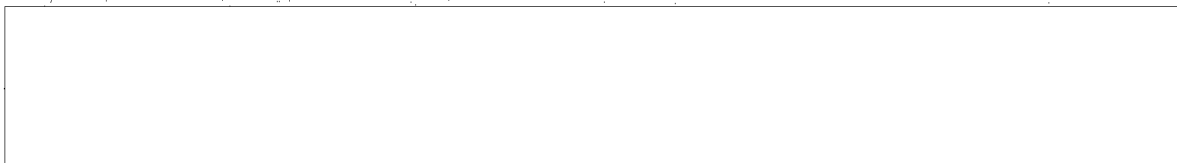
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN... *A*

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MORI/CDF  
C03419557 page 1 only

HENRY A. KISSINGER *Handwritten signature*

SUBJECT: Statement by Hanoi Official on North  
Vietnamese Problems



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The North Vietnamese official reportedly made the following points:

- The war has been very difficult for North Vietnam. There is a great difference in the strength of the U.S. and Hanoi.
- Hanoi has had great difficulty in maintaining the flow of essential military supplies to the front.
- Vietnamization is the first step in the U.S. policy of fighting a Maoist "protracted war" in Southeast Asia. This policy is forcing Hanoi to "reorient its basic strategic concept." The current plan is "not working out."
- Hanoi will keep the Paris negotiations going since it would like to get a negotiated peace "soon." It needs a negotiated peace before Vietnamization is complete. In line with this, it leaves an "opening" in making new proposals so as to avoid an impasse.

*I put no  
credence whatever in  
this. Our main  
enemy has to start  
what they expect  
or want us  
to hear.*

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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--After describing you as a "clever man," he said that you knew Communist tactics.

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Comment: We must regard this report with some reservations, since it is unusual for a North Vietnamese senior official to speak so frankly in a circle which includes foreigners. However, the circumstances under which the reported statement was made suggest that it represented

[redacted] genuine views. [redacted] then was suddenly moved to deliver the above recital of Hanoi's problems during an emotional upsurge which no one could turn off.

We do not have any additional material indicating whether his views are personal or whether they reflect the thinking of any important segment of the Hanoi leadership, but they represent an intriguing indication that beneath Hanoi's hard line there is some doubt about the future.

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