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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

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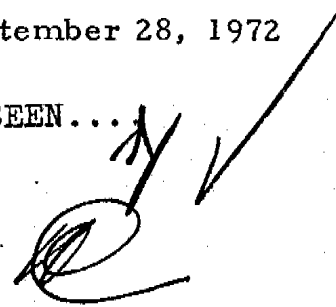
September 28, 1972

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR. 

SUBJECT:

North Vietnam's Internal Supply Problems

Serious disruption of North Vietnam's internal supply system by our air and naval actions was candidly admitted in a recently obtained article in the Hanoi Party monthly Hoc Tap.

The article stated that the "management of technical material supplies in the present situation is very heavy and difficult." It admitted that supply management has shown "many weaknesses," that "a rather large amount of material sources" is wasted and "the percentage of use for equipment and materials remains very low."

Hoc Tap explained that the dispersion of supplies necessitated by the bombing has led to this waste and inefficiency. Supplies are scattered about in a disorderly fashion often in inadequate storage places or left in the open. Thus, valuable supplies are damaged, lost or cannot be located when needed. In addition, pilferage and corruption reduce available supplies. The problem is further compounded by a shortage of trained supply management personnel.

The article, which was designed to spur improved performance in this field, warned: "In a fierce war situation each shortcoming and weakness in protecting materials can lead to disastrous consequences..."

The disruption of North Vietnam's internal supply system is virtually impossible to quantify; therefore, this result of our air and naval actions is generally slighted in the intelligence estimates on the effects of our operations against North Vietnam; nevertheless, we believe that kind of logistic disruption described by Hoc Tap significantly affects Hanoi's ability to maintain its economy and prosecute the war.

NSS/NSC Review Completed.

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MEMORANDUM

ACTION

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

September 26, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL HAIG

FROM: JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE *Heardman jr*

SUBJECT: North Vietnam's Internal Supply Problems

Recent intelligence estimates on the effects of our air and naval operations against North Vietnam consistently slight or omit the significant impact of these operations on North Vietnam's internal supply system. We recently obtained an article in the August number of Hanoi's monthly theoretical journal Hoc Tap which quite candidly describes the supply management problems caused by our actions against North Vietnam.

We have prepared a summary of this article (Tab A) for the President which might help balance some of less than positive estimates we have been getting from the intelligence community.

Recommendation:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

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