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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

May 2, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

RICHARD T. KENNEDY
WILLIAM L. STEARMAN
WILLIAM G. HYLAND

SUBJECT:

GVN Produce and Drop Leaflets Depicting
President Nixon Greeting Mao and Brezhnev

We believe the use of leaflets (separately or conjoined) of President Nixon being cordially received by Mao and/or Brezhnev will have a salutary impact on NVA troops and cadre in South Vietnam. We propose that we encourage the GVN to prepare and drop these leaflets. It will be a completely GVN operation.

- Vietnamese Communists are deeply disturbed by the thought of Sino-American and Soviet-American rapprochement and all that it implies for the Vietnamese revolution. Doug Ramsey (an FSO prisoner of the Communists in South Vietnam for several years) talked to Communist cadre and is convinced that the North Vietnamese in South Vietnam will be greatly demoralized by the thought that President Nixon is indeed on friendly terms with the leaders of the two greater Communist powers. They will become aware that their leaders have lied to them.
- The Mao-Brezhnev leaflets will also suggest to the Communists that Hanoi's insistence of continued conflict is out of step with a world working toward peace. The leaflets will therefore render NVA troops and cadre more susceptible to our radio themes urging them to conform to the Agreement and stimulating their desire to return home.
- Mao-Brezhnev leaflets were employed by the GVN for a short time in 1972 but were discontinued at U.S. request. There is strong evidence that these leaflets were particularly effective.

NSS Review Completed.

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We now propose that we encourage the GVN to produce and drop "Mao-Brezhnev" leaflets - without our direct participation - over NVA troops and cadre in South Vietnam.

- In addition to photographs of President Nixon being cordially greeted by Brezhnev and Mao, each leaflet would contain a brief non-polemical text stating when and where President Nixon met with these Communist leaders and the economic and cultural benefits which resulted to each side from the exchange.
- We wish to encourage the GVN to wage a more active psyop campaign against Communist forces in South Vietnam and the Mao-Brezhnev leaflet operation would be a step in the right direction.
- On 27 April CIA reported that the PRC may be encouraging Hanoi to follow a moderate course. If this is true, Mao-Brezhnev leaflets will be less provocative to the PRC than previously.
- The Soviets, who are also showing signs they seek a moderation of the conflict in Indochina, should not react strongly to these leaflets.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you give authority for us to approach the GVN to urge them to print and drop President Nixon-Brezhnev and President Nixon-Mao leaflets.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE K

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