

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION

March 17, 1975

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NSA review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER
 FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*
 SUBJECT: Similarities Between 1972 and 1975
 NVA Recruitment and Infiltration Patterns

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MORI/CDF C02827626

Hanoi's current pattern of recruitment and infiltration of troops to the South is quite similar to that preceding the 1972 offensive. This suggests that their offensive this year could well approach the 1972 level. The similarities with 1972 are as follows:

- Infiltration to South Vietnam is 76% higher than a year ago, and Hanoi's manpower commitment to the B-3 Front and COSVN is approaching that of 1971/72.
- Both the North Vietnamese press and COMINT have provided good evidence of a widespread military recruiting campaign that is larger and more intense than any since 1972.
- The North Vietnamese are drafting all categories of personnel, including students, deserters, and ethnic minorities, as well as some who are less physically fit. This practice has been observed only when Hanoi maximizes recruitment. The last time we noted a reduction in physical fitness standards was in 1972.
- Intercepted messages have indicated that individuals are being inducted from at least three General Directorates in Hanoi -- Geology; Posts, Telecommunications, and Broadcasting; and Chemicals -- and from provincial branches of the North Vietnamese State Bank. The last period of widespread, accelerated induction within government agencies was in 1972.
- Civilians have been inducted directly into provincial units since last January, a practice not previously noted.

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-- Another indicator is the volume of induction-related personal messages recently observed in North Vietnamese civil communications. Those intercepted in February were dramatically higher than any other month since September 1972 -- despite a 50% decrease in U. S. intercept capability.

-- To cope with the increased number of recruits, a major training command has ordered a 20 day training curriculum. The extremely abbreviated training cycle is another indication that Hanoi is preparing for intensified military action, as minimal training cycles were last noted in 1972.

-- Major elements of the NVA 341st Infantry Division have crossed the DMZ into South Vietnam. The rest of the division is expected to follow shortly. Once the move is completed, it will be the first time since 1972 that Hanoi has deployed an infantry division from North Vietnam.

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