FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

23 November 1967
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Cuban Military Delegation to Hanoi: A high-level Cuban military delegation has arrived in Hanoi at the invitation of the North Vietnamese Ministry of Defense, according to a 21 November announcement by Hanoi. The mission includes the Cuban armed forces chief of staff and probably represents another link in the growing ties between the two countries in their struggle against "Yankee imperialism." While in Hanoi, the delegation will probably inspect the North Vietnamese air defenses--particularly air defense and surface-to-air missiles--and exchange information on guerrilla warfare tactics. The Cuban representation in Hanoi has long included a number of military personnel.

Other Travel Notes: The North Vietnamese trade union delegation which has been in Italy since 15 November received a "rousing welcome" at the headquarters of the Italian United Socialist Party on 22 November, according to a press account. Socialist Party officials reportedly reaffirmed their support for the unconditional cessation of US bombing of North Vietnam at the meeting.
Soviet Reactions: Interestingly, Soviet propaganda media have not yet taken note of the recent bomb damage to the Soviet attaché office in Hanoi. This has, however, been reported in the press elsewhere.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Viet Cong Comment on the Bunker-Westmoreland Trip: The Liberation Front, in a clandestine broadcast in Vietnamese on 16 November, reported that the recent return to the US of General Westmoreland and Ambassador Bunker "clearly reflects the confusion and panic of these two US aggressors." The broadcast claims that despite their awareness of the "peril and stalemate," the US officials "dare to lie to themselves and to fool the American people by boasting enthusiastically over the situation in South Vietnam." Continuing on this theme, the broadcast recounted the numerous "victories" won by the Communists in the current "winter-spring" campaign. The broadcast asserted that in view of these serious US losses, "it is certain that Bunker and Westmoreland will ask for more reinforcements, aid, weapons, and money to expand and pursue their aggressive war in Vietnam."
Liberation Radio went on to ridicule President Johnson's recent tour of US military bases as an effort to "flatter, deceive, and incite US troops to go to South Vietnam and die shamefully," and to contrast this with Governor Wallace's call for a cut in US aid in order to force the US "satellites to send mercenaries to South Vietnam."

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