

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

NORTH VIETNAM INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH VIETNAM

Information and intelligence on North Vietnamese infiltration into South Vietnam is provided by several sources --prisoners of war, captured documents, trail watches, and SIGINT. All of these sources are, of course, mutually supporting and do not lend themselves to chronological comparison.

The SIGINT contribution does provide foreknowledge since it is derived from communications serving the elaborate series of transportation actions leading from North Vietnam through Laos and South Vietnam. Over this transportation system--operated and controlled by the General Directorate of Rear Services (GDRS)--flow the men and supplies that sustain the Communist war effort in South Vietnam. Intelligence derived from the communications network serving the GDRS has provided the intelligence community with a continuing accurate assessment of the total North Vietnamese input into South Vietnam in terms of hard facts and figures on the volume of infiltrating personnel and war supplies--information of inestimable value to our field tactical commanders, U. S. policy makers at home and our negotiators in Paris.

Since November 1967, over 500 groups of North Vietnamese military personnel have been observed in the GDRS pipeline.

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

From SIGINT the strength of over 70% of these groups has been determined and they have had an average strength of more than 500 persons each. Thus, we know that 190 thousand new troops have been introduced into the pipeline and can estimate with confidence that the total introduced in the last year and one-half is in excess of a quarter of a million men.

Fluctuations in the rate of flow of men and supplies do occur, of course, principally in response to anticipated needs. But to some extent, seasonal factors also impose some restrictions on the flow. As a case in point, from December 1968 through February 1969, a total of 121 groups were noted in the pipeline for a known total of nearly 55,000 and an estimated total of approximately 66,000 men moving south during this three month period. In contrast, during the next three months--March through May--only 35 groups of about 14,000 troops were in the pipeline; and as a matter of fact, only three of these groups were introduced into the pipeline in N. Vietnam after 22 March. This decline in the number of southward moving groups noted in GDRS communications continues to the present. Moreover, recently available SIGINT indicates that for the period July through

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

possibly October the modest total of 11,200 infiltrators has been programmed.

A typical copy of NSA's Daily Infiltration Summary is attached for reference. (TAB A)

~~SECRET SPOKE~~