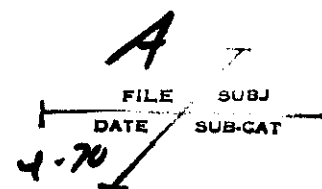


Vietnam: April 1970



I - Military and Political Forces Involved:

A. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), i.e. North Vietnam. Pop. est 20 million. Its armed force is called the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) with a total strength of about 500,000 (including 125,000 in South Vietnam and Cambodia and 67,000 in Laos); in addition the DRV has a para-military force of 250,000 called the Regional Militia Force).

B. National Liberation Front (NLF), the so-called Viet Cong, i.e. the communist and communist-support group in South Vietnam and Cambodia. It includes:

1. The Communist Party of South Vietnam, called the People's Revolutionary Party (PRP) of about 80,000 members.
2. The various member organizations in the front organization. Specifically, six major organizations (the "liberation" associations, of farmers, workers, women, students, youth and "cultural") and 15 minor organizations. Total membership about 300,000.
3. An armed force called the People's Liberation Armed Force (PLAF) or Liberation Army. Made up of two types of soldiers in: a) full-military or main-force units and in b) para-military or guerrilla force units (the guerrilla force in turn is divided into two elements: the regional or territorial guerrillas and the local or village guerrillas. Total strength about 190,000.
4. Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces. Conceived as a force broader than the NLF which would incorporate all NLF members plus others (i.e. bourgeois and urban South Vietnamese).

5. Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG). Designed as a supra-governmental entity for all the communist and communist-support forces in South Vietnam. Involves about 100 persons almost entirely drawn from the leadership ranks of the NLF, PRP and Alliance. Conceived as an interim administrative structure in the event of a political settlement of war.

C. Government of Vietnam (GVN), that is the South Vietnam. Population est 18 million. Its armed force called the RVNAF Republic of Vietnam Armed Force (RVNAF) which, together with its militia totals about 1.4 million.

D. U.S. and Allied Forces. U.S. military strength in Vietnam is now about 434,000 (of which about 15% are combat). Republic of Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand (and previously Philippines) have troops in Vietnam. About 35 nations supply military and non-military assistance to the GVN, the largest, after the U.S., being West Germany.

## II - Objectives of the Contending Forces.

- A. DRV: Unification of North and South Vietnam.
- B. NLF et al: Monopoly of political power for itself and the elements it represents.
- C. GVN: Withdrawal of PAVN forces and accomodation of the NLF elements.
- D. US/Allied: Prevention of unification of Vietnam by force; self-determination by South Vietnamese; maintenance of equilibrium in Southeast Asia and Asia (the so-called "ideological balance of power").

## III - Major Recent Developments in Area

- 1. U.S. begins its "Vietnamization" plan.

2. Ho Chi Minh dies and disarray develops in North Vietnam (doctrinal and economic disarray, not political).
3. NLF declines in political and military significance in South Vietnam.
4. Intense criticism of the war and conduct of the war continues in the U.S.
5. Prince Norodom Sihanouk is deposed in Cambodia.
6. Increased military activity develops in Laos.
7. Increased internal organizational strength develops within the GVN.

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