

CIA in Dark on Hanoi Ruling Circle

By Jack Anderson

With the most exhaustive intelligence apparatus in the history of mankind at their disposal, our policymakers still have no real idea what the effect of Ho Chi Minh's death will be on a Vietnam peace.

The Central Intelligence Agency has some excellent sources in Hanoi, who furnish Washington with reliable military and political intelligence. However, the CIA has never been able to crack the tight little circle that rules North Vietnam to gain much insight into their intentions.

The North Vietnamese leaders are mystery men, whose thinking processes simply are beyond the ken of our intelligence analysts. Although the CIA must have anticipated the death of the 79-year-old Ho as a matter of simple geriatrics, there is no reliable indication whether Hanoi will become more belligerent or more amenable with Ho out of the picture.

Of all the shadowy figures in the Hanoi politburo, Ho was always the most mysterious. No one really knows all the facts of his life. He changed his name many times to keep

these facts from becoming known.

There are those who knew him under the name of his birth, Nguyen Sinh Cung, and the name of his youth, Nguyen Tat Thanh. He became Nguyen Ai Quoc when he went to France in the closing days of World War I, fell under the influence of the Russian revolution and decided to become Nguyen the Patriot.

In China, where he operated as a Russian agent between the wars, he used at least five more names. He was known by still other names in Russia. Not until 1942 did he become Ho Chi Minh, or Ho the Enlightened.

Ho Chi Minh, or whatever his name was, came out of hiding after the Japanese surrender in 1945 wearing white shorts and a pith helmet and smiled at the young revolutionaries who knew him only by reputation, then amazed them by lighting up an American cigarette.

He continued to smoke Salmes, a constant fire hazard to his wispy beard, while he plotted against the United States.

Training Flights

From all points of the compass, Navy pilots suddenly have scheduled "training

flights" to Las Vegas the first week in October. They will flock to the glitter-and-gambling capital to attend a convention of the Tail Hook Association, a Navy-chartered organization of carrier pilots.

The wing-ding has been scheduled for the Oct. 3-5 weekend, so reserve officers can get away from their civilian pursuits and fly down for the festivities. After all, they need flight training, too.

Adm. Thomas Moorer, the chief of naval operations, has authorized his fly-boys to use the taxpayers' airplanes for the Las Vegas flights on a not-to-interfere-with-operations basis. Indeed, he intends to fly to Las Vegas himself for the happy event.

Politics at HEW

Political maps, showing how Southern school districts voted in the 1968 election, have appeared on the walls at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. These show officials at a glance, as they ponder federal action against school districts that have failed to desegregate, whether the districts voted for President Nixon.

HEW used student interns

to color the maps so officials could see how districts voted. The handy maps also show, in the districts won by George Wallace, whether the runner-up was Mr. Nixon or Hubert Humphrey and whether the vote was close.

Coca-Cola Fan

Coca-Cola's J. Paul Austin was summoned before a Senate subcommittee the other day to answer charges that Cokes contain caffeine but no vitamins or proteins. Yet Coke machines abound in ghetto neighborhoods, whose scrawny children would be better off spending their dimes on something more nutritional.

Georgia Sen. Herman Talmadge, who comes from Coca-Cola country, anxiously contacted each senator on the subcommittee and appealed for kindly treatment for the Coca-Cola king. At the hearing, Talmadge set the tone that prevailed at the Coca-Cola inquiry.

"When my oldest son was born," said the senator from Georgia, "the pediatrician was named Dr. Patchinsky. Much to my amazement, he was prescribing Coca-Cola for our infant son."

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