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## Inside Report

# North Viet War Weary?

By Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

WASHINGTON—An astonishingly tough warning by North Vietnam's internal security boss against a "counterrevolutionary" wave that may even now be affecting parts of North Vietnam has raised the specter of internal crisis resulting from Hanoi's massive offensive against the South.

Just how much the tough call for "repression" of all anti-war forces in North Vietnam is based on events actually occurring, and how much is designed to put party cadres on notice to beware is, admittedly, somewhat speculative.

BUT THE LONG and extremely specific lecture by Tran Quoc Hoan, North Vietnam's Minister of Public Security and an alternate member of the controlling politburo, published in the March issue of Hoc Tap, the party's theoretical journal, hints strongly at the existence of grave home-front problems.

Consider, for example, these words:

"The counterrevolutionary clique in our country has carried out investigations and intelligence collection in the military, political and economic fields in order to study and evaluate our strength. It has carried out material and spiritual destruction with a view to causing difficulties and obstacles to the revolution and has established secret bases in order to carry out destructive schemes, psywar (psychological warfare), riots and murders of our cadres (trained party workers) to . . . annihilate the socialist regime through violence or 'peaceful evolution.'"

In the past, the Communist government of North Vietnam has periodically been forced into draconic measures to put down

revolt, particularly among the 700,000 Catholics, the Montagnards (mountain tribes) and former small landowners dispossessed by the revolution.

The sweeping directives to party cadres in Tran Quoc Hoan's draconic call to arms seem surely the result of war weariness coupled with fears that the main force invasion of South Vietnam would trigger the strongest wave of anti-war fever yet experienced.

Thus, the interior minister's definition of "counterrevolutionary" — the first time such a definition has ever been published by Hanoi — includes "any person or organization . . . who opposes the struggle for peace and national unification" or the building of a Communist state.

What the publication of that definition of "counterrevolutionary" hints is that Hanoi is deeply concerned by the growth of North Vietnamese "doves." Moreover, the interior minister implicitly and sharply rebukes party cadres for being too lenient with home-front dissenters.

There is also the clear implication that Hanoi is worried not only about counterrevolutionary agitation among individuals but among "organizations" — almost certainly including the Catholic church.

THE LAST KNOWN REVOLT of any serious proportions occurred in 1958 in Nghean province in central North Vietnam, a center of Catholicism. Recalling the successful anti-colonial war against the French, Tran Quoc Hoan notes that "the imperialists introduced many religions into our country to use the reactionary followers of these religions."