

Estimates of Arms Picked Up by Hanoi

Washington

North Vietnamese troops captured more than 550 U.S.-made tanks, 1300 artillery pieces, 1.6 million rifles and enough other military equipment to field an entire army, air force and navy, a Pentagon report showed yesterday.

The newly declassified report provided the first detailed breakdown of an estimated \$5 billion in U.S.-supplied military hardware that Hanoi's forces took over when South Vietnam's government collapsed in the spring of 1975.

"A substantial amount of this equipment could be unserviceable," the Pentagon said. "The list does not take into account the degree of damage inflicted upon portions of the equipment left behind by retreating Republic of Vietnam forces during the final days."

The Pentagon noted that the captured equipment may have deteriorated from weather conditions in South Vietnam, but it said it does not know to what extent this may have happened.

Shortly after the fall of South Vietnam, defense spokesmen told Congress they calculated about \$2 billion of the \$5 billion worth of military equipment taken by North Vietnam was in serviceable shape.

Military officials have said that aircraft, tanks, armored personnel carriers, ships and some other gear probably would be of value only until they needed spare parts, which would not be available from the United States.

Among the items listed were 48,000 radios. U.S. Army National Guard and reserve forces have a shortage of radios.

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