

1 Feb 72

CIA reports show Hanoi demanding total victory

N.O. STATE ITEM

1 FEB 72

WASHINGTON — The latest intelligence reports indicate that Hanoi has no intention of settling the war in Indochina at the conference table.

It is also evident that the latest Communist drives in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam are coordinated by Hanoi.

Communist cadres in all three countries are spreading the word, according to one secret CIA cable, "that the U.S. withdrawal

Jack Anderson

from Indochina is only a matter of time and that the three states of Indochina are now joined together to fight the U.S. openly anywhere in Indochina."

A typical cadre briefing was given recently by a high-ranking Pathet Lao colonel named Vanna at a secret site in the Muong Phalane area of Laos. The CIA was able to get a detailed, 18-page account of the secret meeting.

"Vanna said that the U.S. is losing the war in South Vietnam and that is the reason President Nixon is disengaging from Indochina," recounts the CIA.

Congressional position

"Also, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. people have openly advocated the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Indochina and the reduction of aid to the government of South Vietnam.

"He added that the joining of Cambodia with Vietnam and Laos in common battle against the U.S. has united Indochina, and that the three countries as a united force will openly fight the U.S. anywhere in Indochina.

"Vanna commented, however, that . . . the U.S. withdrawal will not be easily accomplished. The U.S. will probably disengage aggressively in order to show its strength to the world and to show that it has not lost the war in Indochina.

"Vanna explained that the U.S. will not admit defeat and will continue its 'support' to the South Vietnamese, RLG (Royal Lao Government) and Long Nol 'puppets' (Cambodia).

U.S. elections

"If Nixon wins the 1972 U.S. elections, the U.S. (is expected) to conduct a longer and more vigorous Indochina war. If the Democrats win, then the U.S. can be expected to terminate the war more quickly.

"In any event, he explained, the U.S. will eventually disengage, and the U.S. elections will only indicate whether it will disengage more quickly or more slowly.

"Vanna noted that the North Vietnamese allies remain firmly committed to Ho Chi Minh's advice to 'vanquish the Americans and be true to the historic missions of North Vietnam.' "

The secret CIA summary also contained an ominous hint that the Pathet Lao might call Chinese troops into Laos if the govern-

ment continues to use Thai troops. At present, approximately 4,000 Thais are fighting with the Laotian Army inside Laos.

"Vanna said that on several occasions," continued the CIA report, "the NLHS Communist front) has refused Communist Chinese proposals to 'liberate Laos' on the grounds that world tensions would probably result. However, he said continued or increased infusion of Royal Thai Army troops into Laos could result in the introduction of Chinese Army combat elements . . .

"Vanna said that the RLG (Royal Lao Government) is tired of war, and the Lao people want a peace settlement, a unified Laos and an opportunity to reconstruct the country," added the CIA report.

"The Lao armed forces, however, are not expected to give up the battle easily, although FAR (government) troops are tired of fighting and PL (Pathet Lao) forces are nearly equal to FAR in strength.

"Vanna said that 'the enemy is like a dog with a piece of meat. He will not leave it alone unless he is soundly thrashed.' "

Clearly, the fighting is far from finished in Indochina.