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Nixon's Hand In the Blasts At Russ Aid

by Thomas B. Ross

Washington - (CST) - President Nixon has quietly ordered a step-up in criticism of Soviet aid to North Vietnam in order to rally American public opinion for continued aid to South Vietnam.

A confidential memo, circulating here and in U.S. missions abroad, directs officials to "draw attention at every opportunity to the volume of Soviet military aid."

"Stress, emphasize and continuously underline" the Soviet role the memo declares, "so that the need for continued U.S. support for South Vietnam becomes clear

"The need for American assistance to Saigon, it is felt at the highest level here, can be best explained to critical public opinion in terms of reaction to Soviet aid to Hanoi"

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The term "highest level" is a bureaucratic code word for the President.

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