

Photos Raining on Hanoi

Saigon

Copies of a cozy photograph of President Nixon and Russia's Communist party boss Leonid I. Brezhnev are being airdropped by the millions over North Vietnam.

It is the first hard news the North Vietnamese people have received of President Nixon's Moscow trip. Hanoi and all domestic publications carried nothing at all about the trip — the same treatment given Mr. Nixon's Peking visit in February.

WONDER

The aim of the psychological warfare leaflets is to exploit Hanoi's dark view of both trips. An ordinary North Vietnamese — having been told for years that Mr. Nixon was an anti-Communist villain beyond salvation — might well wonder what is going on.

Only recently it was Mr.

Nixon photographed with China's boss Mao Tse-tung — and now Brezhnev.

The experts admit that leaflets are frequently of questionable value but in this instance the message is so obvious that the leaflets cannot fail to considerably discomfort Hanoi's leadership.

RESULTS

There has already been some feedback from enemy war prisoners who earlier saw the leaflets advertising Mr. Nixon's China trip.

A military source said one young officer captured near Quang Tri admitted to questioners that the Nixon-Mao photo was the biggest surprise in his life. He did not believe the photo was genuine — an impression that psychological warfare experts believe is widespread and one they hope to correct.

Such psychological war-

fare missions over North Vietnam were discontinued when President Johnson ordered the bombing halted in 1968. They were resumed after the Communist offensive began more than nine weeks ago.

In addition to spreading the word about President Nixon's trips to Peking and Moscow, the leaflets are being used to advertise the effectiveness of new bombing techniques.

Pictures of the better known bridges in North Vietnam are printed on the leaflets — before and after American bombing.

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