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Problems Of Psych Warfare

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Allied psychological warfare campaigns apparently are causing serious problems for North Vietnam's Communist administrators, Hanoi publications indicate.

The North Vietnamese army newspaper, Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army Daily), devoted an entire page August 9 to a series of articles warning against listening to South Vietnamese and American propaganda broadcasts and against reading propaganda leaflets.

A similar warning was carried in the July issue of the monthly magazine Hanoi Thoi Su Pho Thong (Hanoi Common Chronicle).

Hanoi watchers are uncertain whether the concern evident in the articles was the result of new forms of propaganda aimed at the north or a populace more receptive to psychological warfare activities.

VIEW

"I know we have a department of dirty tricks headed by a Vietnamese from the north which has been doing various things," one Hanoi watcher said. "but I don't think what we have been doing is all that unusual."

Since the start of the North Vietnamese offensive last March 30, Voice of America has stepped up its broadcast schedule to North Vietnam, and B-52 bombers have been used to make leaflet drops for the first time.

But there is evidence that fewer than half a million of North Vietnam's 17.5 million population has ever heard a Voice of America or Voice of Freedom (South Vietnam's propaganda stations) broadcast.

There are few radios in North Vietnam capable of picking up anything except Hanoi radio broadcasts.

LEAFLET

And there is no reason to believe that a leaflet dropped by a B-52 is any more effective than one dropped by a fighter bomber, informed sources said.

The Hanoi publications especially warned North Vietnamese against listening to broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Co.

There are indications that at least three times as many North Vietnamese have heard BBC broadcasts as have listened to Voice of America, sources said.

Intensive psychological warfare activities were carried on in North Vietnam during the 1966-68 bombing, but were curtailed after that. There was little evidence of any great effect at that time.

CALL

The army newspaper called on its readers to:

"Absolutely refrain from tuning in to radio stations of

the Americans and their henchmen, from reading enemy leaflets and from storing the enemy's psychological warfare goods.

"Each time the enemy drops leaflets...we organize ourselves to collect and burn or destroy them immediately."

Both the monthly magazine and the army newspaper warned against BBC broadcasts. The magazine lumped the BBC with Radio Saigon and Voice of America as "stations of the imperialists and their henchmen" and accused it of fabricating stories.

United Press