

by William Beecher

From story/on year-end review and forecast by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird:

Other points covered by the Secretary ... included the following:

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On North Vietnamese infiltration, Mr. Laird said that while actual "arrivals" into South Vietnam have been substantially below those of last year, there have been increases into southern Laos.

Other sources point out that the Administration has no way of knowing whether the troops in Laos will be kept there to rebuild and guard supply lines, or will be sent into Cambodia or South Vietnam on major new offensives.

Mr. Laird said intelligence analysts expected that infiltration into South Vietnam in the next three months would be higher than during the first quarter of last year.

Clipping filed Nixon Administration.