

Supplies Still Available

Hanoi Drive Results Mixed

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A U.S. assessment of North Vietnam's spring offensive has reported sizable gains for Hanoi forces, along with heavy losses.

And the estimate is that the enemy has the resources for several more months of intensive fighting in the south.

This conclusion by U.S. analysts contrasts with some earlier speculation that Hanoi had embarked in March on a go-for-broke campaign whose outcome would be decided fairly speedily.

On the contrary, the new assessment is that Hanoi never expected total military victory in 1972.

Kissinger Wrong

Presidential adviser Henry A. Kissinger said in late April that "we think this offensive will have substantially run its course by July 1, one way or the other."

According to the new assessment, Hanoi achieved less than it hoped in the first three months of the campaign.

With U.S. air help, South Vietnamese forces held such cities as Hue and An Loc and are moving to retake Quang Tri.

And it states that the enemy has made particularly significant gains in opening up the South Vietnamese countryside to Communist penetration because of the diversion of Saigon units to main battle areas.

Major Points

Among assertions by the U.S. analysts:

- The enemy has supplies at battlefield sites or in North Vietnam to continue the current pace of the fighting for several months more.

- Enemy losses have been heavy but Hanoi may not

consider them excessive. Claimed enemy deaths of nearly 70,000 in the first half of this year are below the rate of casualties in 1968, the year of the great Tet offensive, when 181,000 were reported killed.

- South Vietnamese forces have lost around 20,000 killed so far this year. Their 1972 total may exceed the 28,000 killed in 1968.

- The enemy has replaced initial losses for some five divisions on the northern front of South Vietnam. It retains an offensive threat in the central highlands and it has a division in the Delta in the south.

- There are morale problems among the populace in North Vietnam, but apparently not significantly greater than during earlier grim stages in the long war. Hanoi's leadership still is firmly in control and dedicated to a takeover of the south.