

# Major Hanoi Officials Reported Moving Into South

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SAIGON, Jan. 23—United States intelligence sources report that Hanoi has moved officials from its Ministries of Health and Education into South Vietnam's northernmost province in recent weeks, possibly to establish a Communist capital there for the South.

One ranking American intelligence official said there were reliable reports that the Communists planned to set up their capital in the devastated town of Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province, eight miles northwest of the city of Quang Tri.

The official voiced some skepticism that the North Vietnamese would choose Dong Ha, which was an unimposing and impoverished settlement of 5,000 people before it was obliterated in the Communist offensive across the nearby demilitarized zone last spring. But he added, "I can't see what else the operating elements from those ministries are doing there but getting ready to set up some sort of administration. The advantages of Dong Ha, the official pointed out, were that it would give the Com-

munists unimpeded communications with North Vietnam and that, at least before last April's offensive, it had a small airstrip that could be used to bring in visiting diplomats. Dong Ha is one of eight district capitals under Communist control.

Hanoi has also transmitted detailed orders to both North Vietnamese and Vietcong units in the South to seize as much territory as possible in the few days between the initiating of the peace agreement and the day on which the cease-fire be-

comes effective, American intelligence analysts report. These orders to seize land and key villages are almost identical with the ones Hanoi issued at the end of October when it originally expected a peace settlement, the analysts say. Apparently acting under those instructions in the last week of October and the first week of November, Communist troops infiltrated villages throughout the country, temporarily seizing 30 in the Saigon area alone.

**96-Hour Delay Foreseen**  
According to captured documents and agents reports cited by the intelligence officials, Hanoi has told its forces to expect a 96-hour delay between the time the agreement is initiated and the time the cease-fire goes into effect.

American officials say Hanoi has given strict orders that as quickly as possible after a cease-fire, all fighting to stop border incursions and its troops are to avoid any acts of retribution or terrorism. They would be allowed to de-

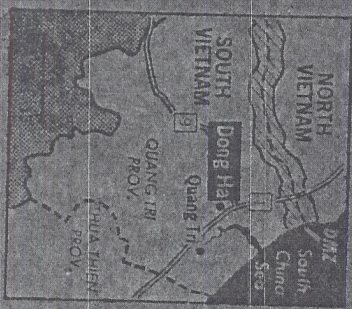
As far as American analysis can determine, the instructions to obey the cease-fire are to remain in effect for two to five months. One recent captured order to a Vietcong unit said it should "be prepared to be out of touch" with Communist headquarters for five months, during which time it was not to engage in any armed activity.

After this period, American officials say, they are not sure what Hanoi will do. "The big problem is no one can assess baggy amount of goodwill Hanoi is bringing into the negotia-

tion, one senior member of the United States mission remarked. In preparation for the expected accord, one analyst reported, North Vietnamese forces at bases along the Cambodian border north and west of Saigon have in the last few days been moving into South Vietnam. These troops are expected to open attacks in Binh Thuan province on such overt activity until after the initial 60-day period during which American troops will be withdrawn.

Despite these military preparations for the cease-fire, the analyst report, Hanoi has not given any orders about which leaders in the south are to "survive" and take part legally in the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord and in provincial mixed military commissions.

American officials believe the Communists will hold back such overt activity until after the initial 60-day period during which American troops will be withdrawn.



The New York Times, Jan. 24, 1973. Dong Ha is due to become the Communist capital, some reports say.