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# Hanoi's Build-up In South Vietnam



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THE COMMUNIST military build-up that raised President Nixon's hackles, apparently was precipitated by a U.S. build-up last November and December. It simply took the Communists longer to move their military hardware down the infiltration routes into South Vietnam.

The United States delivered hundreds of aircraft and dumped tons of supplies upon Saigon before Christmas. The Central Intelligence Agency has reported that the Communists viewed this as a violation of the spirit of the peace negotiations and immediately began shipping equipment to their own forces in the south.

More than 300 tanks and armored cars, 150 heavy artillery pieces, 150 anti-aircraft guns and loads of lighter equipment have now reached South Vietnam, according to CIA estimates.

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THIS is far less than the United States suddenly shoved upon Saigon after the Joint Chiefs warned late last October that President Nguyen Van Thieu's regime would fall without more military equipment. Saigon wound up with more planes and helicopters, for example, then there were pilots to fly them. Many of the planes haven't been moved out of the hangars since they were delivered.

As we reported in early January, this massive turnover of supplies to the South Vietnamese caused Hanoi to withdraw the truce concessions that had been made in October. President Nixon then sent a mes-

sage to North Vietnam's Premier Pham Van Dong, offering him a choice between bargaining or bombing. The ultimatum gave Hanoi 72 hours to renew serious bargaining.

A cease-fire was finally signed after devastating raids upon the Hanoi environs. Under its terms, neither side was supposed to send more troops or equipment to South Vietnam after January 28, except for replacements on a piece-by-piece basis.

The equipment that Hanoi sent to the south to match the U.S. build-up, according to intelligence reports, was shipped before but arrived after the deadline. A reported 70,000 men have also infiltrated into the south since the deadline.

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DURING last year's campaign, Republican officials tried to avoid mentioning President Nixon by name. The idea was to emphasize the office rather than the personality. So they simply said "The President" when referring to their candidate.

Now, however, the rules have changed for good Republicans. This is evident from a memo issued inside the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The memo, circulated by the Office of Information, notes that "White House spokesmen are now referring to President Nixon, rather than The President. . . accordingly, I recommend that you favorably consider doing the same."