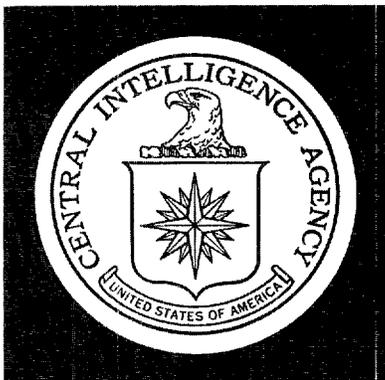


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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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No. 0062/70
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South Vietnam: The Communists appear to be planning a cautious, long-range program to restore control in the Mekong Delta.

A captured enemy document, sent from the Communist headquarters in South Vietnam to the two major Viet Cong regional commands in the delta in February, urged local commanders to avoid big operations that might result in heavy losses. The Communists apparently hope gradually to rebuild their strength in the delta by scoring a series of successes in relatively small actions over a period of many months, keeping open a wide range of military and political options. This, of course, does not rule out sharp, selective Communist assaults against rural outposts and towns and occasional stiff opposition to South Vietnamese sweep operations, such as have occurred in the delta recently.

The document frankly acknowledged that the many problems encountered by the Viet Cong in IV Corps since the latter part of 1968 caused the Communist leadership to send regular North Vietnamese troops into the delta last year. These troops had orders to attack the government pacification program and to help rebuild local Viet Cong units. In addition, the northern reinforcements were to prepare to take control of the civilian population in the delta in the event a political solution is found to the war.



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NOTES

Canada - Communist China: Ottawa officials, including External Affairs Minister Sharp, have been publicly reiterating that Canada will not explicitly acknowledge Peking's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan. The statements, made since the last session of the recognition talks in mid-February, probably reflect government confidence that there is no public pressure for rapid recognition of Communist China at any price. They are also presumably a tactic to convince Peking that it cannot count on Canadian public opinion for leverage in the talks. The Chinese have shown no willingness to alter their conditions for recognition, and the Canadian decision to air the issue in public only underscores the present stalemate.

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Romania: The Romanians are attempting to seize the initiative in pressing for a European security conference by inviting all European countries as well as the US and Canada to send foreign ministry representatives to a "preliminary" meeting in Bucharest. The Romanians see this as a means of shaping the conference in a way that would counter Moscow's claim to the right to intervene in the internal affairs of the Warsaw Pact countries. Reaction so far on the part of the Western countries approached has been reserved. The Soviets are likely to be annoyed by Bucharest's presumption, but in view of their own commitment to the conference, they may not openly oppose the Romanian proposal.

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Turkey: Anti-US violence could result from a rally scheduled for Saturday afternoon by a radical youth organization.

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The attack on the USIS building in Ankara on 6 March followed a similar rally. Harassment of individual Americans or their property is also possible.

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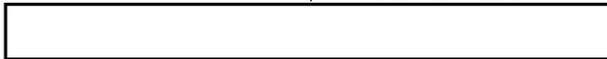
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 12 March 1970 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 60-70 "The Outlook for North Africa"



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