

Top Secret



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VIETNAM: The Communists are telling their people in South Vietnam to use a cease-fire to prepare for a rapid take-over of South Vietnam after the US has withdrawn.

[redacted]
[redacted] two recent directives from the Communist high command in the South, COSVN, have claimed that the US has been stalling on a cease-fire agreement in order to ship in more war materiel and improve its bargaining position. Nevertheless, the directives indicated that everything would be done to force the US to sign in the near future, even if the Communist side must change "a point or two" in the draft agreement.

COSVN also asserts that, despite the delay, Communist objectives and policies remain unchanged. Military forces are to "stand fast" in their operating areas and continue trying to expand areas under their control. When the cease-fire comes, "we must be ready to coordinate the armed and political force of the populace to seize land and control people." The Communist cadres are promised that after two or three months, when all US forces have been pulled out and prisoners have been exchanged, the Communists will move to destroy the Thieu government once and for all.

In earlier reports, cadre were told that a cease-fire is a transitional period of intense "political struggle" and terror, culminating in Thieu's ouster. The new directives give little attention to this aspect, or to the prospect of elections. They indicate that the Communists expect a cease-fire to break down almost immediately following the departure of US forces. A number of reports suggest the Communists do not realistically expect to prevail except by military force, although in much of the country, COSVN's predictions greatly outrun its current military capability.

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LIBYA: The Libyans are seeking Western military equipment which could eventually end up in Egyptian hands.

A joint Libyan-Egyptian arms purchasing mission presently in London has reportedly obtained some small arms, but so far the Libyans have not received any highly visible equipment such as tanks and aircraft. The Italians, however, have agreed to a number of major arms deals, linking arms negotiations with favorable terms for ENI, the Italian state-owned oil firm operating in Libya. The total Italian arms package may be worth some \$100 million,

[REDACTED] This agreement may encourage the Libyans to renew their request to purchase F-5 aircraft from the US, citing US oil interests in Libya as a bargaining tool.

During a recent visit to France, Libyan Prime Minister Jallud reportedly tried to buy additional French arms, including tanks and light armored vehicles, rockets, and long-range artillery. The Libyans may intend to turn over to Egypt at least some of these arms, which President Qadhafi may believe will provide Cairo with a partial alternative to Soviet weapons. If the French agree to supply the arms Jallud requested, they will probably require the Libyans to adhere to terms similar to those in the 1969 Mirage aircraft contract which forbids third-country use of the arms. The third-country-use stipulation is likely to become less and less meaningful to the Libyans, however, if the planned union between Egypt and Libya in September 1973 encompasses their armed forces. [REDACTED]

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