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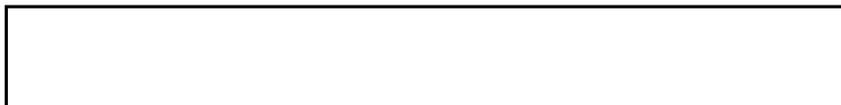
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WESTERN EUROPE - NORTH VIETNAM: Recognition of
North Vietnam by EC members. 

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*WESTERN EUROPE - NORTH VIETNAM: THE DECISION OF THE NINE EC MEMBERS TO DELAY RECOGNITION OF NORTH VIETNAM MAY NOT DETER SOME OF THE COUNTRIES FOR VERY LONG.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 16 MARCH, SEVERAL OF THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAD PLANNED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT THEY WERE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HANOI. BECAUSE OF REPORTS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, THE NINE AGREED TO WITHHOLD ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF RECOGNITION FOR THE TIME BEING.

THE MINISTERS, NEVERTHELESS, SAID THAT THEIR COUNTRIES INTENDED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN SOME CASES, THIS COULD BE QUITE SOON.

A DUTCH OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE LENGTH OF DELAY WOULD DEPEND ON "DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MOVEMENT OF NORTH VIETNAMESE MEN AND MATERIEL TO SOUTH VIETNAM," THE HAGUE WAS UNLIKELY IN ANY CASE TO POSTPONE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS. ITALY, AND PERHAPS BELGIUM, MAY ALSO GRANT EARLY RECOGNITION. THE BRITISH AND GERMANS ARE LESS EAGER TO MOVE, ALTHOUGH LONDON APPARENTLY REMAINS SKEPTICAL ABOUT HOW EXTENSIVE AND SERIOUS THE CURRENT NORTH VIETNAMESE INFILTRATION IS.

*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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