

~~SECRET~~ (as paraphrased)

July 5

10a

Our people in Saigon checked extensively to discover the sources and speculations in the article. All they were able to find out was that the figure of 8,000-9,000 was originally filed by a UPI correspondent on the basis of a briefing he received from unidentified sources in Kontum during a recent visit.

Trumbull presumably picked up the figure from UPI and tied it in with his own preconception to fashion what seems a highly exaggerated and speculative course.

One point which is made is that there has been little indication from the information available to them here that to date there has actually been a mass transfer of people in Vietnam and that it is unlikely because of these factors. Those elements of the North Vietnam army as currently deployed in Laos are believed either along route 7 or in northern Laos. Most of these units are probably composed of northerners and would be far less suitable for South Vietnam than the large pool of regrouped southerners they have.

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