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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
20 April 1975

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Indochina
(As of 1600 EDST)
No. 19

VIETNAM

Military Action

1. Fighting is reported continuing along Route 1 just 15 miles east of Bien Hoa as the North Vietnamese attack South Vietnamese forces retreating from the Xuan Loc battlefield. The communists are also continuing to direct artillery fire at the Bien Hoa airbase.

2. There are unconfirmed reports that large numbers of North Vietnamese troops have crossed the Vam Co Dong River and have overrun the Ben Luc District town 12 miles southwest of Saigon. These forces are reportedly moving toward Binh Chanh District town, about five miles to the north. Capture of these two towns would give the North Vietnamese control of Route 4 north of the main South Vietnamese defense line in Long An Province and allow them to advance directly against the southwestern section of Saigon.

Communists Take Tougher Line

3. The Communists appear to be ruling out any consideration of a genuine negotiated settlement of the conflict. At a press conference in Saigon Saturday, the Viet Cong's spokesman carefully avoided mention of negotiations with the present government or even a reconstituted one such as they had been demanding. Instead, he reiterated the Viet Cong's position of March 21 which called for the overthrow of Thieu and the immediate suspension of all US support as the only two preconditions which could bring about a "rapid settlement."

NSA review completed

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4. An equally tough line reportedly emerged from a secret briefing of senior Communist officials in COSVN on the 9th or 10th of April, according to [redacted]

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[redacted] COSVN believed the "whole thing" would be finished in a short time and that the Communists would not agree to enter into negotiations, nor would they join any tripartite coalition government. [redacted] the issue of US aid had become "academic", since victory would be achieved before the South Vietnamese could absorb the new appropriations.

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