

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

August 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY *RTK*
 JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE *JHH*

SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Reaction to Our
 Psywar Campaign

The memorandum for the President (Tab A) reports on three unsolicited testimonials from the Hanoi leadership on the effectiveness of our psywar campaign. The first was obtained through FBIS (Tab B). Mr. Helms provided the others in a memorandum to you (Tab C). These items, particularly the directive from the DRV Premier's office, provide the firmest evidence to date that our efforts are having the desired effects on Hanoi.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab A.

NSS Review Completed.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
INFORMATION

August 14, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Reaction to Our
Psychological Offensive

We are receiving increasing evidence that our psychological offensive is producing the desired effects on Hanoi.

The DRV Premier's office recently issued a directive stressing that the information task "must be aimed at completely smashing the enemy's psywar and denying false, harmful rumors in time, especially in municipalities, cities, heavily populated areas and areas where fighting is fierce." The directive urged the Information Branch to:

- "step up word-of-mouth propoganda on current events and policies among cadres, Party members and the masses in coordination with guiding and organizing readings of newspapers and listening to our radio."
- "reestablish mobile information teams at the village, district, province and city echelons."
- "steadfastly maintain the state-built radio network and maintain and develop radio relay stations for cooperatives where conditions permit. Meanwhile, attach importance to rudimentary broadcasting and motivating means such as megaphones and loudspeakers."
- "develop news bulletins, slogans, banners, propoganda drawings and maps of victories."

Mr. Helms reports on two additional testimonials to our psychological offensive: The July 1972 issue of a monthly Party journal warned that "The U.S. imperialists are stepping up psychological warfare, using very crafty maneuvers."

- "Their crafty maneuver consists of mixing true news with distorted news and giving us the impression that they have

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released the news . . . Thus they use small capital to gain great profit . . . As a result of the telling and retelling of lies, white is turned into black and listeners will be deceived or struck with doubt. Even if listeners believe enemy news, with some reservations, the enemy will still benefit."

-- "Another crafty maneuver is the sending of spies to spread rumors in order to deceive honest people who will, in turn, disseminate the false news. The news whispered by our people and cadres can help deceive people more effectively than the news released by enemy radio stations."

The journal recognized that "some people are unaware of all the enemy schemes and maneuvers and of the need to fight the enemy while keeping quiet. Thus they are deceived by the enemy and have sometimes inadvertently offered to be propagandists for him."

Radio Hanoi broadcast a warning on August 9 that "The U.S. puppets . . . are resorting to psywar farces and cheap tricks that cannot fool our people." It stressed that "One must absolutely not listen to radio broadcasts of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, not read enemy leaflets and not keep enemy psywar items." It urged that psywar items be collected immediately and burned or destroyed. "With respect to honest people who by mistake listened to enemy radio broadcasts or who have kept enemy leaflets and psywar items, we must try to explain to them, then criticize them and persuade them not to do it again."

Mr. Helms states that "it would appear that some elements of our total mix of intensified activities are tweaking tender nerves. It is refreshing to see them complaining about our using 'very crafty maneuvers.'"

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DRV PREMIER'S OFFICE ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON COMBATING 'ENEMY PSYWAR'

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(TEXT) THE PREMIER'S OFFICE RECENTLY ISSUED A DIRECTIVE ON REORIENTATION OF THE INFORMATION TASK IN THE NEW SITUATION.

THE DIRECTIVE POINTED OUT: THE INFORMATION TASK MUST BE VIGOROUSLY REORIENTED TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO UNITE IN COMBAT AND PRODUCTION AND TO ACTIVELY ADVANCE SO AS TO OUTSTANDINGLY FULFILL TASKS REGARDING NATIONAL DEFENSE, ORDER AND SECURITY, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. THE INFORMATION TASK MUST MAKE ACTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS SO AS TO ENABLE EVERY CITIZEN TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY AND IN TIME OUR SITUATION, TASKS, STRONG POSTURE AND GREAT SUCCESSSES, THE ENEMY'S DEFEATED POSTURE AND HIS CRIMES AND SCHEMES AND THE POLICIES AND MEASURES TO DEFEAT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS. IT ALSO MUST BE AIMED AT COMPLETELY SMASHING THE ENEMY'S PSYWAR AND DENYING FALSE, HARMFUL RUMORS IN TIME; ESPECIALLY IN MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS AND AREAS WHERE FIGHTING IS FIERCE.

THE PREMIER'S OFFICE URGED ALL ECHELONS OF THE INFORMATION BRANCH TO CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING CONCRETE TASKS:

--DEEPLY AND BROADLY STEP UP WORD-OF-MOUTH PROPAGANDA ON CURRENT EVENTS AND POLICIES AMONG CADRES, PARTY MEMBERS AND THE MASSES IN COORDINATION WITH GUIDING AND ORGANIZING READINGS OF NEWSPAPERS AND LISTENING TO OUR RADIO.

IT IS NECESSARY TO REESTABLISH MOBILE INFORMATION TEAMS AT THE VILLAGE, DISTRICT, PROVINCE AND CITY ECHELONS. THESE TEAMS WILL HAVE AN ASSAULT ROLE IN PROPAGANDA AND A CORE ROLE IN STEPPING UP THE INFORMATION AND MOTIVATION MOVEMENT.

--STEADFASTLY MAINTAIN THE STATE-BUILT RADIO NETWORK AND MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP RADIO RELAY STATIONS FOR COOPERATIVES WHERE CONDITIONS PERMIT. MEANWHILE, ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO RUDIMENTARY BROADCASTING AND MOTIVATING MEANS SUCH AS MEGAPHONES AND LOUDSPEAKERS.

--DEVELOP NEWS BULLETINS, SLOGANS, BANNERS, PROPAGANDA DRAWINGS AND MAPS OF VICTORIES. STEP UP MINOR EXHIBITIONS AND THE USE OF PROJECTORS.

--ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO COORDINATING WITH VARIOUS BRANCHES IN SATISFACTORILY ORGANIZING FORMS OF MOTIVATING THE MASSES, SUCH AS DRILLS, TRAINING, EXERCISES AND ACTION WEEKS WITH PRACTICAL SLOGANS AND STRUGGLE OBJECTIVES.

INFORMATION ACTIVITIES MUST BE SIMPLE, CONCISE, WIDESPREAD AND CONSISTENT WITH WAR CONDITIONS.

--STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP OVER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE TASKS. LEADING ECHELONS MUST SET FORTH REGULATIONS TO HELP INFORMATION CADRES UNDERSTAND IN TIME THE SITUATION AND THE PARTY AND STATE'S POLICIES. IT IS NECESSARY TO PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE INFORMATION TASK, TO SET FORTH GUIDELINES FOR IT AND TO QUICKLY STRENGTHEN THE INFORMATION NETWORK AT ALL LEVELS WITH ATTENTION BEING PAID TO THE DISTRICT AND LOWER LEVELS. IN THE PROVINCES, MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICTS WHERE THE INFORMATION ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN UNITED WITH THE ORGANIZATION WATCHING OVER CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, IN ADDITION TO COMRADES WHO ARE DIRECTLY CHARGED WITH THE INFORMATION TASK, THERE MUST BE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SPECIALIST CADRES FOR INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. IN LOCALITIES THAT STILL MAINTAIN THEIR OWN INFORMATION ORGANS, IT IS NECESSARY TO APPROPRIATELY STRENGTHEN THESE ORGANS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MORE SATISFACTORILY THE INFORMATION TASK IN THE NEW SITUATION. IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT MEASURES TO POSITIVELY STRENGTHEN INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, TO ENTRUST QUALIFIED CADRES WITH THE INFORMATION TASK AND TO CHOOSE A NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS AND YOUTH MEMBERS TO SERVE AS A NUCLEUS FOR THE INFORMATION NETWORK AT THE BASIC LEVELS. IT IS NECESSARY TO MEET IN TIME THE DEMANDS IN MATERIAL SUPPLIES, MEANS, BUDGET AND NECESSARY REGULATIONS FOR THE INFORMATION TASK.

THE PREMIER'S OFFICE REQUESTED THAT ALL CENTRAL-LEVEL BRANCHES CONCERNED AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ECHELONS BE CLEARLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INFORMATION TASK IN THE NEW SITUATION, THOROUGHLY IMPLEMENT THE VIETNAM WORKERS PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PREVIOUS DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS ON THE INFORMATION TASK, AND MAP OUT PLANS TO SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PRESENT DIRECTIVE.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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10 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT : Unsolicited Testimonials from Hanoi

1. In a recent publication, * we mentioned the Hanoi leadership's

"...unusual case of nerves over U.S. psychological warfare tactics. In its determined effort to distinguish U.S. 'psywar arguments' from its own version of the hard facts, it seems to betray a concern that the people themselves may begin to miss the distinction."

2. The comment quoted was based on a series of passing and pointed references to our psychological warfare efforts that have appeared in Hanoi's press and radio output over the past several weeks. These remarks, even though glancing, were noteworthy because over the past decade or so, Hanoi has hardly ever deigned to acknowledge that a U.S./GVN psychological warfare effort existed. The intensification of effort undertaken in response to the President's instructions of 18 May 1972 is thus clearly beginning to have some impact.

3. Since the above quoted comments were written, we have received further unsolicited testimonials from the leadership in Hanoi -- testimonials that are notably more fulsome than any we have ever received before. Appended for your information are the two most

*The Annex ("Hanoi Levels with the People") to the 2 August 1972 edition of our daily Developments in Indochina.

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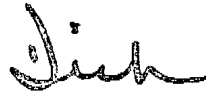
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telling. The first is taken from the summary of the 9 August edition of the Army's daily newspaper (Quan Doi Nhan Dan) broadcast over Hanoi radio. (We will send along the full text of the second page of "articles and stories" as soon as it becomes available.) The second is an excerpt from an article entitled "Preserve State Secrets and Struggle Against Enemy Psychological Warfare" appearing in the July 1972 edition of a monthly Party journal Current Events.

4. It would appear that at least some elements of our total mix of intensified activities are tweaking tender nerves. It is refreshing to see them complaining about our using "very crafty maneuvers."



Richard Helms
Director

Attachments

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Excerpt from a July 1972 Thoi Su Pho Thong ("Current Events" -- a North Vietnamese monthly journal) article entitled "Preserve State Secrets and Struggle Against Enemy Psychological Warfare."

"In this modern war, along with waging military warfare, the U.S. imperialists are stepping up psychological warfare, using very crafty maneuvers. Radio Saigon, the VOA, the BBC and other stations of the imperialists and their henchmen have daily released false news to distort our victories and conceal the setbacks of the U.S.-puppets and have fabricated stories about North Vietnam.

"Their crafty maneuver consists of mixing true news with distorted news and giving us the impression that they have released the news quickly and objectively. Thus they use small capital to gain great profit. The guideline of the enemy's psywar organs is: make listeners believe true news released on one occasion so that they will believe false news on another occasion. As a result of the telling and retelling of lies, white is turned into black and listeners will be deceived or struck with doubt. Even if listeners believe enemy news, with some reservations, the enemy will still benefit.

"Another crafty maneuver is the sending of spies to spread rumors in order to deceive honest people who will, in turn, disseminate the false news. The news whispered by our people and cadres can help deceive people more effectively than the news released by enemy radio stations.

"Our people and cadres have constantly heightened vigilance. However, some people are unaware of all the enemy schemes and maneuvers and of the need to fight the enemy while keeping quiet. Thus they are deceived by the enemy and have sometimes inadvertently offered to be propagandists for him.

"To strictly preserve military, economic and ideological secrets, to remain vigilant and to expose and smash in time all enemy allegations and propaganda maneuvers is a duty to be fulfilled by each citizen and each cadre in order to contribute to the victories in our anti-U.S. national salvation undertaking."

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DRV Paper Warns Against Psychological Warfare

S090301 Hanoi Domestic Service In Vietnamese 2235 GMT 8 Aug 72 S

/[9 August Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army Review)]/

(Excerpt) To retrieve their defeats in both zones of our country, the U.S. -puppets are resorting to psywar farces. But their cunning tricks can never fool our people. To denounce these cheap enemy psywar farces, the paper publishes on its second page many articles and stories.

The article "what must we know about the enemy's psychological warfare?" includes four parts: 1) what is psychological warfare? 2) what are the psywar plots that the U.S. -puppets have often used against the northern part of our country? 3) what are the contents of the U.S. -puppets' psywar propaganda? and 4) what should each of us do to oppose the enemy psychological warfare?

After dealing with the first three parts, the paper thoroughly discusses the tasks to be done to oppose the enemy psychological warfare: one must absolutely not listen to radio broadcasts of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, not read enemy leaflets and not keep enemy psywar items. When the enemy drops psywar items and leaflets, we must immediately try to collect them and burn or destroy them. We must closely watch and prevent bad elements from secretly listening to enemy radio broadcasts, from keeping and hiding enemy leaflets and psywar items, or from using them to spread false news to disturb public security.

With respect to honest people who by mistake listened to enemy radio broadcasts or who have kept enemy leaflets and psywar items, we must try to explain to them, then criticize them and persuade them not to do it again.

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