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DE WTE #1064 0620023  
O 021404Z MAR 76  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TDHAK 08//

TO COVEY FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY  
VIA BLACK PATCH WH00304

TDHAK 08

25X1 MARCH 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEM

INDICATIONS OF STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM  
A PRC DIPLOMAT RECENTLY SAID THAT PRC-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE STRAINED. TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT, THE PRC OFFICIAL GAVE THE FOLLOWING THREE EXAMPLES OF HOW THE VIETNAMESE HAVE EXACERBATED THE SITUATION.

- IN EARLY FEBRUARY, THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY RETURNED UNOPENED PROPAGANDA MATERIALS WHICH THE PRC EMBASSY HAD ROUTINELY DISTRIBUTED. WHEN ASKED WHY, THE VIETNAMESE SAID THE PRC LITERATURE INCLUDED STORIES AND PHOTOS ON THE SPRATLY ISLANDS (WHICH BOTH THE PRC AND VIETNAM, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES, CLAIM). THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY RETURNED THE MATERIALS TO SHOW ITS OPPOSITION TO CHINA'S CLAIMS.
- SHORTLY AFTER THE "LIBERATION" OF SOUTH VIETNAM, CHINA SENT THE FIRST SHIPMENT OF AID MATERIAL TO DANANG, BUT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT ALLOW THE SHIP TO UNLOAD. INSTEAD, A SHORT TIME LATER, A SOVIET SHIP ARRIVED AND WAS AUTHORIZED IMMEDIATE ENTRY. THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY FEARED THERE WERE U.S. MINES IN THE HARBOR AND DARED NOT ENTER FIRST. THE VIETNAMESE HAD INSTRUCTED THE CHINESE SHIP TO PROCEED FIRST TO CLEAR THE WAY. THE NEXT DAY, VIET-

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NAMESE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET SHIP  
WAS THE FIRST TO BRING MATERIAL AID AFTER THE VIC-  
TORY.

-- THE CHINESE ALSO EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES OVER  
AID SHIPMENTS TO CAMBODIA. WHEN CHINESE SHIPS  
CARRYING AID GOODS CALLED AT A VIETNAMESE PORT  
EN ROUTE TO CAMBODIA, THE VIETNAMESE DEMANDED  
HALF OF THE AID MATERIAL. THE PRC ACCEDDED TO THE  
VIETNAMESE REQUEST. (QUINN)

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