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Saturday, September 23, 1967
2:55 p.m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

Herewith CIA estimates Soviet
1967 aid to Hanoi at \$700+ million rather
than \$1 billion, as in newspaper despatches

But our bombing is costing them
a good deal. They would be delighted to
have the war go on quietly and painfully
(for us) in the South without bombing the
North.

W. W. Rostow

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 94-401

By CL, NARA, Date 9-19-95

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cc: Mr. Goldstein

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-406

By CC, NARA, Date 1-1-95

22 September 1967

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Soviet Aid to North Vietnam

1. Press statements today commenting on Kosygin's announcement that the Soviets would increase their aid to North Vietnam included speculation that the Soviets were already supplying North Vietnam with a billion dollars of aid annually. We find this speculation high.

2. Our current figures are:

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Economic</u>	<u>Total</u>
1965	200 (million)	85	285
1966	360	150	510
1967 (projected to end of year)	500+	200	700+

3. The Weekly plans an article on the general subject of aid to North Vietnam from all Communist countries for publication Friday, October 29.

4. The promise of increased military and economic aid is pretty much standard in these circumstances. The North Vietnamese official, Nghi, has also been recently in some of the East European capitals where he elicited similar pledges of aid. Nghi makes these tours regularly. The communique winding up his visit to Moscow in the early fall of last year, a visit which had produced a new Soviet-North Vietnamese agreement on economic cooperation, also pledged fuller assistance. It said that the North Vietnamese could be helped "in meeting the

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needs of its national economy and in consolidating the defense potential of the country, taking into account the requirements resulting from the new stage of the war in Vietnam."

5. There are other examples of declarations of this kind. What it comes down to is that we learn little about the quantity and quality of Soviet assistance from these official statements. What we know about this has to come from other sources.

E. DREXEL GODFREY, JR.
Director of Current Intelligence

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VIETNAM AID

MOSCOW (AP)-THE SOVIET UNION HINTED TODAY THAT ITS AID TO NORTH VIETNAM, ALREADY REPORTED COSTING ABOVE \$1 BILLION A YEAR, WILL BE INCREASED.

THE HIT CAME IN AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON A KREMLIN MEETING BETWEEN AN AID-SEEKING DELEGATION FROM HANOI AND PREMIER ALEXEI N. KOSYGIN.

THE REPORT SAID KOSYGIN AND NORTH VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PREMIER LE THANH NGHI "EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON THE SITUATION WHICH IS TAKING SHAPE IN VIETNAM IN VIEW OF A STEPPING UP OF AMERICAN AGGRESSION. THEY DISCUSSED PRACTICAL STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY THE SOVIET UNION TO GIVE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO REPEL U.S. AGGRESSION AND MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMY."

THE SOVIET UNION IS PUBLICLY PLEDGED TO ESCALATE ITS AID TO MATCH ANY RISE IN THE U.S. WAR EFFORT IN VIETNAM. THE MENTION OF "A STEPPING UP" SUGGESTED THAT INCREASED AID WAS BEING DISCUSSED.

THE REPORT SAID "THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, CORDIALITY AND FRIENDSHIP."

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