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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-454

By           , NARA, Date 10-4-95

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October 20, 1967

from walt rostow

to The President at the Ranch

This routine item in today's Defense Intelligence Report will interest you.

"Intelligence obtained from three widely-separated areas of South Vietnam points up various problems plaguing several enemy units. In I Corps area reports indicate Communists experiencing low morale and supply shortages. Messages on 26 October from subordinate units of 27th North Vietnamese Independent Regiment located south of Con Thien reported personnel problems and a vulnerability to "psychological operations" exploitation. It was indicated that two companies had a number of seriously wounded and that malaria and "paralysis" were affecting others. In Quang Tin Province, captured documents disclosed that 21st North Vietnamese Regiment of 2d Division had been reorganized and that most of its personnel were recruits; many poorly motivated and lacked combat abilities. In Long Khanh Province, a rallier from 3d Battalion, 274 Viet Cong Regiment, reported his battalion strength at 312 men but that they were dispersed because of B-52 strikes in area. This dispersal and food shortages had reduced unit's capability to conduct offensive operations. He also said that only one-third of battalion -- mostly cadre -- were eager to fight and that others wanted to rally but did not have the opportunity."

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