

INFORMATION

Friday, November 17, 1967
3:15 p.m.

85
Pres file

Mr. President:

This material from Leonard
Marks will interest you.

Unless instructed to the contrary,
I shall give it to Bill White this afternoon.

W. W. Rostow

WWRostow:rlm

25a



DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
Walt Rostow
The White House

On occasions spokesmen supporting Administration policy in Viet-Nam have referred to the encouragement given Hanoi by those protesting U.S. policy.

The enclosed memorandum contains quotations from North Viet-Nam newspapers, the Viet-Nam News Agency and other sources supporting the position that the dissent within the U.S. has given encouragement to Hanoi.

The comment of the London Daily Telegraph to this effect follows:

"Unfortunately, what they are doing is to harden the North Vietnamese Government in its refusal to negotiate.... Hanoi's latest hope is that civilian morale in America will crack under a small dent in affluent living and the irksome realities of responsibility, before the morale of hunted, starving, outnumbered, battered and decimated Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

"The sooner Ho realizes that he cannot win on American campuses and boulevards the war he is losing in Viet-Nam, the sooner he will come to the conference table."



Leonard H. Marks

November 12, 1967

WAR PROTESTS IN U.S. ENCOURAGE HANOI
TO REJECT PEACE-TALK PROPOSALS

Hanoi's officially controlled press and radio have made it clear that North Viet-Nam's Communist regime welcomes and places high value on U.S. anti-war protests and demonstrations. They welcome the demonstrators not as fellow seekers of peace but more as American allies of the Viet Cong, encouraging them to persist in "their just struggle" for "complete victory."

Immediately after the big anti-war demonstration at the Pentagon, Hanoi poured out a stream of press and radio commentaries to exploit the occasion. In fact, Hanoi media reacted far more promptly and fully than those in any other part of the world.

Hanoi's official Communist Party paper, Nhan Dan, on October 22, the day after the Pentagon demonstration, ran a long, lurid account of the event and its significance. The editorial concluded:

"The Vietnamese people highly value the American people's movement and regard it as a valuable support to their fight against U.S. aggression.... In the end, it will completely defeat the U.S. aggressive war in Viet-Nam."

In the same vein, the Viet-Nam News Agency declared:

"The Vietnamese people as a whole are determined to persist in their protracted and hard patriotic war and firmly believe that they will win complete victory.... They thank their friends in America who support their just struggle."

Hanoi Hails Support in U.S.

Hanoi radio hailed and enlarged upon the protest movement in the U.S. in another broadcast which said "the Vietnamese people... highly appreciate the American people's movement to end the Johnson war in Viet-Nam."

"The self-immolations by a number of American citizens, the burning of draft cards by American youths, the war

protest by GI's in South Viet-Nam, the strikes by American workers who refuse to produce weapons for the Viet-Nam war, the black uprising combined with the fight for peace in Viet-Nam -- all these are diversified forms of the American people's resolute struggle against the U.S. war escalation."

Calls for More Vigorous Action

Hanoi's clandestine "liberation radio" on October 22 interpreted the demonstrations as "your sympathy for our struggle" and expressed hope for more vigorous action.

"We hope that you will act more vigorously so that your voice in defending justice, human dignity, and democracy in the U.S. will be strong enough to force the warmongers in the Pentagon and the White House to put an end to their cruel and dirty war in our country."

London: "Hanoi's Latest Hope"

Commentators in many other countries believed that anti-war demonstrations would simply "harden" Hanoi's refusal to negotiate.

London's Daily Telegraph said:

"Unfortunately, what they are doing is to harden the North Vietnamese Government in its refusal to negotiate Hanoi's latest hope is that civilian morale in America will crack under a small dent in affluent living and the irksome realities of responsibility, before the morale of hunted, starving, outnumbered, battered and decimated Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

"The sooner Ho realizes that he cannot win on American campuses and boulevards the war he is losing in Viet-Nam, the sooner he will come to the conference table."

Paris: "Disservice to Their Own Cause"

Paris' conservative Figaro declared:

"Doing a disservice to the cause they wished to serve, the demonstrators at the Pentagon have actually started an anti-pacifist movement."

Financial Les Echos of Paris said:

"Foreign adversaries of U.S. Viet-Nam policy are gambling that the U.S. domestic front will crumble.... Indeed, they are not entirely wrong."

In Germany, independent Stuttgarter Zeitung said the "worldwide" demonstrations "have prolonged the war.... Ho will feel encouraged to continue the war."

Switzerland's center-oriented Der Bund said the demonstrations were "calculated to revive illusions in Hanoi of an imminent collapse of the American war effort."

In Tehran, influential Ettela'at said:

"The Communists are taking the demonstrations in Europe and the U.S. as a good omen. They hopefully believe that demonstrations in the U.S. are indications of the American people's dissatisfaction with the way the war is being conducted in Viet-Nam and their weariness with the great burden war is imposing upon them."

Seoul: "Aiding Our Adversaries"

South Korea's Joongang Ilbo declared that one of the great advantages of an open and democratic society was that anyone could express his free will. However, as far as the Viet-Nam war was concerned, it said:

"The misuse of this advantage is leading the Communists to a dangerous miscalculation and is aiding our adversaries. In this respect we deeply regret these demonstrations and even feel pity for the demonstrators' ignorance of what Communism really means."

In Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post advised:

"North Viet-Nam would be wise not to place too much confidence in anti-war demonstrations in the U.S."