

MEMO: Memo File -- BARKER
DATE: April 8, 1986
FROM: POC:bg
RE: Hanoi's Political Position

Le Duan, Nguyen Tho Thatch and others in Hanoi's present official government sold out to the Soviet Union in the mid-1970s in exchange, for Soviet promises of rebuilding Vietnam, and promises of high level political positions within the newly formed Vietnamese-Soviet controlled puppet regime. Today, the backing that the Hanoi government had in the past from the Vietnamese provincial chiefs and Vietnamese people has hit an all time low. The provincial chiefs and Vietnamese military as well as the Communist-Vietnamese people are disillusioned with the false promises of Soviet ^{Reparation} ~~reparation~~ for rebuilding their country, and tired of the long-time war and seasonal invasions of Cambodia. The only thing they see is the occupation of Soviet military personnel and the build-up of installations such as Cam Rahn Bay. They lay the blame for this Soviet occupation at the feet of the Hanoi government, and have asked for Soviet withdrawal.

Vietnam has a long history of foreign occupation with the Chinese in the 1800s, the French in the early 1900s, the Japanese during World War II, the French again after World War II, the United States in the 1960s and early 1970s, and now the Soviet Union. The Vietnam war against the United States was supposed to make Vietnam into a communist self-determined nationalistic country. After more than eight years of occupation by the Soviet

Union, this has only become another false hope. That is why the Army and the provincial chiefs have given their support to Hoang.

The Hanoi government today is almost to a point where it has become a government in exile in its own country. Yet, the United States still insists on dealing with this government to get information on the POWs, when in reality, as I am sure U.S. intelligence must know, this government has little or no control over the fate of POWs, much less any real power over the leaders of Laos, of the provincial government leaders in Vietnam. The only thing Hanoi does have control over is the 400 some odd caskets containing American bodies held in Hanoi, which they release periodically in groups of less than ten. They also have the power to allow the United States officials to excavate crash sites (of course with Soviet approval) and in the name of cooperation with the western world. The actions of the United States government in dealing with the Hanoi puppet regime of the Soviet government only helps to prop that government up in the eyes of the world as being in control of Vietnam, which is in line with the aims of the Soviet Union.

I see the political position of the Hanoi government as attempting to hold on to its false power base on a day-to-day basis, while living in a fantasy world of Soviet protection. By investigating my allegations through others involved in the POW/MIA issue, you will see that they concur with my ideas on this subject. The 400 caskets of expired Americans can be verified by going



through the testimony of an ex-Vietnamese mortician during the Senate Subcommittee hearing on east Asian affairs on the POWs and MIAs, held periodically in Washington, D.C. or by contacting Bill London, U.S. Congressman in Washington, D.C. for this information.