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NORTH VIETNAM - Capabilities & Intentions

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The nature of the war has changed. It has been well over a year since the enemy has initiated large-unit military actions. The tempo of small-unit operations has declined markedly since the Cambodian operation of last spring. We may see periods of sustained military pressure, especially in the two northern military regions, as the enemy seeks to assert his continued military presence; but present prospects are that the purely military aspect of the conflict will continue at a low level.

Within Viet-Nam the enemy has adopted a policy of protracted war employing small-unit operations, terrorism, sapper activity, and efforts at political penetration. A substantial part of his resources is now tied down in Laos and Cambodia. Much of his effort, of necessity, has been diverted to the development of a new logistical system. As we advance further into the dry season, it seems probable that he will devote a major part of his effort to Cambodia while he attempts to increase pressure on Laos. Developments in these two countries, especially in Cambodia, will therefore have a critical bearing on the situation in South Viet-Nam.