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DATE SUB-CAT
4/25

Viet-Nam: How Long, Oh How Long?

Question: How much longer do you think it will be necessary for us to support South Viet-Nam? How much more money will be involved?

Answer: Our preferred solution to the Viet-Nam war continues to be a lasting political settlement along the lines of the Paris Agreement, which would permit early and rapid reductions in U. S. aid. The principal obstacle to achieving that goal has been North Viet-Nam's massive violation of the Agreement, particularly its military build-up, its mounting military pressure, and the refusal since last summer of the PRG (or Viet Cong) even to discuss a political settlement with the South Vietnamese Government. If we do not provide sufficient aid to South Viet-Nam, then North Viet-Nam will be encouraged to pursue to a successful conclusion its goal of imposing a communist-dominated government on the South by force and then reunifying Viet-Nam under Hanoi's rule.

In the absence of a political settlement South Viet-Nam would clearly require military and economic aid well in excess of that which is currently funded for FY-75 (just over \$1 billion), if it is to have a reasonable chance of defending itself and moving toward self-sufficiency.

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