

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1955

Dear Allen:

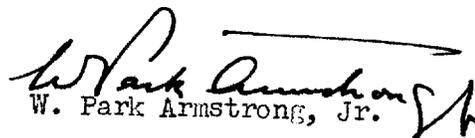
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This note will confirm the conversation yesterday between Mr.  of your staff and Mr. Yager of OIR.

The Department of State believes that the rapidly developing situation in Laos requires an up-dating of NIE 63.3-55. As you are aware, evidence is increasing that large-scale hostilities may break out in Laos, either at the initiative of the Royal Government after the elections scheduled to be held on December 25, or at the initiative of the Pathet Lao at an even earlier date. The Department therefore requires on an emergency basis the best possible estimate of the intentions and capabilities of the contending forces in Laos. The possibility of DRV or Chinese Communist intervention in Laos should also be considered, as should the course of action that might be adopted by the ICC. A comprehensive analysis of the underlying situation, however, does not appear to be necessary, since NIE 63.3-55 is still in large part valid.

In view of the urgency of the Department's requirements and the possible special significance of December 25, I believe that, if possible, the required estimate should be submitted to the IAC at its meeting of December 20.

Sincerely yours,

  
W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

The Honorable  
Allen W. Dulles,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington.

S E C R E T

State Department review completed

8 December 1955

Mr. Dulles:

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has been given a copy of the attached and ONE is working on this estimate.

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