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EXEMPT FROM DISSEMINATION

STATUS REPORT  
OF THE  
TASK FORCE SOUTHEAST ASIA  
COVERT ANNEX - LAOS  
(13-27 JUNE 1962)

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

1. Plans for an extensive reorganization for the CIA-directed Meo operation in north Laos, which were submitted in early May, are now being implemented [redacted] with the assistance of MAAG/Laos. This reorganization calls for the division of the Meo forces of approximately 14,500 into three basic types of units:

- a. Special Units which will be volunteer, full-time, and mobile,
- b. Ordinary Units which will be volunteer, full-time, local area or defense forces and,
- c. Reserve units which will be volunteer, part-time duty reserve units responsible for local area security and initial defense.

This organization also touches on the command structure of the Meo operation, communications, and special operations. [redacted] has reported that this reorganization is now under way and is being implemented.

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2. CIA [redacted] continues to maintain its present capabilities in intelligence collection which are primarily in two fields:

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a. [redacted]

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b. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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is further envisaged that military intelligence capabilities will cover to some extent compliance with or violation of the Geneva Agreements by enemy forces. The latter would include such items as withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Laos and possible violations of the cease fire by enemy forces.

3. On 16 June Colonel Vang Pao, the Meo commander, addressed a number of Meo commanders and members of his own staff. Colonel Vang Pao spoke of the accomplishments of the Meos in the past 18 months and spoke of the current situation. Colonel Vang Pao told his commanders that Meo troops should keep their unit integrity and retain their organization and weapons. However, the Meos should not launch attacks of any kind against the Communists or Kong Le forces except as ordered by Vang Pao. If a Souvanna government were replaced by a Communist government, the Meos should, said Vang Pao, if the Meo-held area became completely untenable, be prepared to relocate to other parts of Laos, Thailand, or South Vietnam.

4. Plans are continuing for a Laos staybehind headquarters in Thailand in implementation of previous policy guidance. These plans call for a staybehind headquarters in northeast or central Thailand with radio communication from Meo intelligence cadres in Laos to the staybehind command post in Thailand.

5.



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3.4(b)(6)>25Yrs  
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6. A total of approximately 700 Lao and tribal people formed into six counter guerrilla groups are currently operating [redacted] in areas of central and south central Laos. The groups, based at Thakhek, have the mission

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of harassing enemy supply lines on and near Routes 8 and 12 in central Laos and collecting intelligence on enemy activities. Heavy enemy pressure forced three groups to return to Thakhek from the Route 12 area in early June, and these groups are being retrained. One group which is in process of establishing a base north of Tchepone (in south central Laos) appears better qualified to fulfill its mission because of better leadership and motivation. The other groups have a limited capability for harassment and intelligence collection which it is hoped can be improved with training and better leadership.

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