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FM CIA

TO STATE EYES ONLY FOR RUSK, HARRIMAN, BALL, HILSMAN, HUGHES
OSD EYES ONLY FOR MC NAMARA, GILPATRIC, TAYLOR, KURLAK, MR
WILLIAM BUNDY

WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR MC GEORGE BUNDY.

BH

~~SECRET~~ EYES ONLY CITE CAS SAIGON 2441

FOR STATE, DOD, JCS AND CIA

HONOLULU FOR CINCPAC [REDACTED]

JOINT EMBASSY, MACV, CAS MESSAGE

REF: DEPTTEL 570

1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF THREE MESSAGES IN RESPONSE TO
REFERENCE AND DEALS WITH IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS.

2. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE TURNOVER
BY CAS TO MACV OF BORDER SURVEILLANCE AND MOUNTAIN SCOUT ASSETS.
THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH THE REMAINING IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY
OPERATIONS SPECIFIED IN DEPTTEL 570. THESE ARE THE COMBAT INTELLI-
GENCE TEAM PROGRAM, THE CIVILIAN AIRBORNE RANGERS, AND THE

[REDACTED]

3. IT IS JOINTLY RECOMMENDED THAT THESE IN-COUNTRY PARA-
MILITARY ASSETS BE TURNED OVER TO MACV FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE.

4. THE COMBAT INTELLIGENCE TEAM PROGRAM COMPRISES SOME
650 INDIVIDUALS OPERATING IN TEAMS OF APPROXIMATELY 18 MEN EACH.
IT PARALLELS IN EVERY WAY THE MOUNTAIN SCOUT PROGRAM, THE ASSETS
OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING ABSORBED INTO THE CIDG PROGRAM. HOWEVER,
IT OPERATES IN NON-MONTAGNARD AREAS AND IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF
ETHNIC VIETNAMESE. THIS PROGRAM ORIGINALLY CAME UNDER THE SUPPORT
OF CAS SINCE IT WAS BASED ON A STAY-BEHIND PROGRAM WHICH WAS
ACTIVATED WHEN THE NEEDS OF THE INSURGENCY SITUATION SO DICTATED.
THESE ASSETS HAVE NOW BECOME OVERT. MACV HAS THE CAPABILITY TO
ABSORB THEM AS A PART OF THE CIDG STRIKE FORCES. THIS ACTION
WOULD ENHANCE U.S. MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THESE ASSETS.

REGRADED SECRET

AUTH: *AND 991830B*

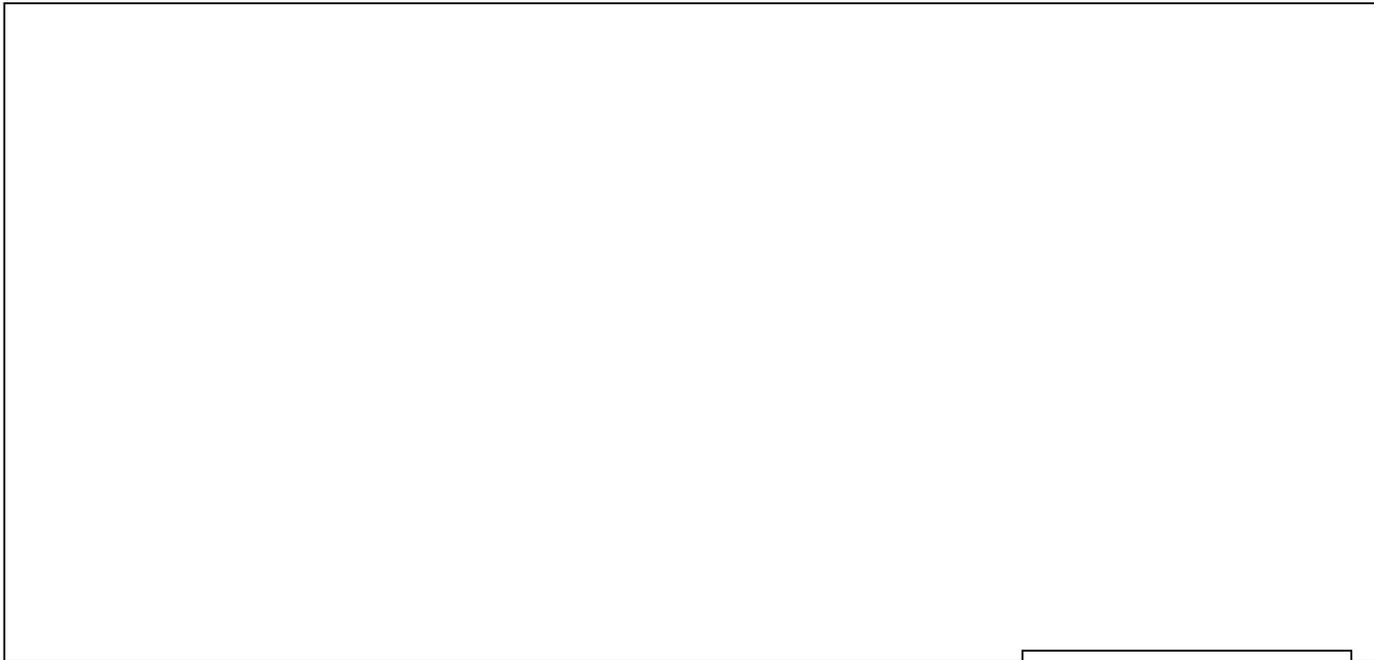
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5. THE CIVILIAN AIRBORNE RANGERS, COMPRISING THREE COMPANIES OF APPROXIMATELY 150 MEN EACH AND A REPLACEMENT COMPANY OF 92 MEN, WERE ORIGINALLY INTENDED AS STRIKE FORCES FOR OPERATIONS IN LAOS AND NORTH VIETNAM, AS WELL AS SUPPORT OF SPEICAL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM. THEY HAVE, IN THE PAST, PERFORMED THESE MISSIONS TO A LIMITED DEGREE AND HAVE ALSO BEEN ATTACHED TO REGULAR OPERATIONS WHEN DESIRABLE. VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES ARE NOW UNDER THE FULL CONTROL OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF AND MOST EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF THESE FORCES IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER OPERATIONS BEING CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PLAN. THEREFORE, THESE UNITS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES, THE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT OF WHICH IS ALREADY A MACV RESPONSIBILITY. MACV WILL SEEK TO REGULARIZE THESE GROUPS BY THEIR INDUCTION INTO ARVN AND UTILIZATION ON OPERATIONS IN THE SAME FASHION AS OTHER SPECIAL FORCES. THE UNITS ARE WELL TRAINED, FLEXIBLE, AND AGGRESSIVE



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7. IF THESE TRANSFERS TO MACV ARE MADE, MACV WILL HAVE UNIQUE SUPPORT AND CONTROL OF OVERT IN-COUNTRY PARAMILITARY ASSETS AND WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO SYSTEMATIZE COMMAND AND SUPPORT OF THESE IRREGULAR UNITS.

8. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CAS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY FUNDS AND MATERIAL TO MACV FOR THESE ACTIVITIES AT NOT LESS THAN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT FY 64. FY 65 FUNDING WILL BE HANDLED BY MACV, HOWEVER, CAS CHANNELS MAY BE UTILIZED FOR THESE FUNDS IF SO AGREED BY DOD AND CAS HEADQUARTERS.

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