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APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: NOV 2004



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FM CIA

TO STATE EYES ONLY FOR RUSK, HARRIMAN, BALL, HILSMAN, HUGHES  
OSD EYES ONLY FOR MCNAMARA, GILPATRIC, TAYLOR, KRULAK,  
MR. WILLIAM BUNDY  
WHITE HOUSE EYES ONLY FOR MCGEORGE BUNDY.

BT  
SECRET EYES ONLY CITE CAS SAIGON 2439  
FOR STATE, DOD, JCS AND CIA  
HONOLULU FOR CINCPAC [redacted]  
JOINT EMBASSY, MACV, CAS MESSAGE  
REF DEPTTEL 570

1. THIS IS THE THIRD OF THREE MESSAGES IN RESPONSE REFERENCE AND DEALS WITH SUPPORT OF NVN OPERATIONS.
2. REFERENCE DICTATES THAT MACV AND CAS CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND TO THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER NORTH VIETNAM OPERATIONS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED BY CAS TO MACV IN WHOLE OR IN PART. THIS MATTER HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY BY THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS IN WHICH AMBASSADOR LODGE CONCURS:

A. IF THE PROGRAM IS TO CONTINUE AT SUBSTANTIALLY ITS PRESENT LEVEL AND UNDER CURRENT POLICY ORIENTATION, THE PROGRAM SHOULD REMAIN UNDER CAS SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE. IT WILL REQUIRE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED MACV SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY THE MARITIME PROGRAM.

B. IF THE PROGRAM IS TO BE EXPANDED IN SCOPE AND IN POLICY ORIENTATION TO THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL VISUALIZED IN THE CINCPAC 33 AND 34 PLAN SERIES AND IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION OF PLAUSIBLE DENIAL TO A LEVEL OF DISCREET OVERT

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OPERATIONS, AND TRANSFER CAN BE RECONCILED TO MACV PHASE-OUT, IT IS DEEMED FEASIBLE AND IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO TRANSFER THE PROGRAM FROM CAS TO MACV. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, CAS PERSONNEL WOULD PHASE OUT THE PROGRAM OVER A SIX-MONTH PERIOD FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL. CAS WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT OF MACV IN CERTAIN SPECIALIZED AREAS.

C. UNDER BOTH CONCEPTS CAS SHOULD RETAIN DIRECTION AND COORDINATION OF THE PSYOPS AND DECEPTION PROGRAM JOINTLY CONDUCTED WITH THE VIETNAMESE AGAINST NVN.

3. WE ARE PREPARED TO OUTLINE IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES AND AMPLIFYING DETAILS APPLICABLE TO COURSE B ABOVE DURING THE 20 NOVEMBER HONO CONFERENCE.

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