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COM-5

State Dept. review
completed
NSC Review Completed.

24 February 1964

NGA Review
Completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Special Group,
24 February 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Following the COMOR and USIB meetings, the Special Group met at 1130, 24 February 1964, to discuss the following USIB approved requirements:

- a. Comprehensive coverage of South Vietnam in connection with the strategic hamlet program;
- b. The preparation of a study (including an engineering analysis of the capability of the pertinent roads) from available photography of the road net of concern, any important gaps to be identified for coverage in the near future;
- c. As near as possible daily coverage of roads and logistic routes from North Vietnam to South Vietnam through Laos and Cambodia, the results to be the subject of continuing analysis by MACV and Washington Intelligence Community to determine whether the data acquired are of sufficient value to warrant continuation or require modification of the program;
- d. Pre- and post-strike reconnaissance of 34A targets.

Mr. McCone noted that he had pointed out at the USIB meeting that it was illusory to believe that daily coverage would result in consistent comprehensive coverage of Viet Cong infiltration and build-up. The past record just does not support such optimum achievement in this theatre. Mr. McCone pointed out that, with the exception of truck convoys, NPIC, in five years of experience, has not found photographic evidence of Viet Cong infiltration. Another considerable factor is weather; for the past 34 days most of the weather has been in category 4-5. Mr. McCone stated that the forecast was that the weather would deteriorate for the next 90 days due to the approach of the monsoon season.

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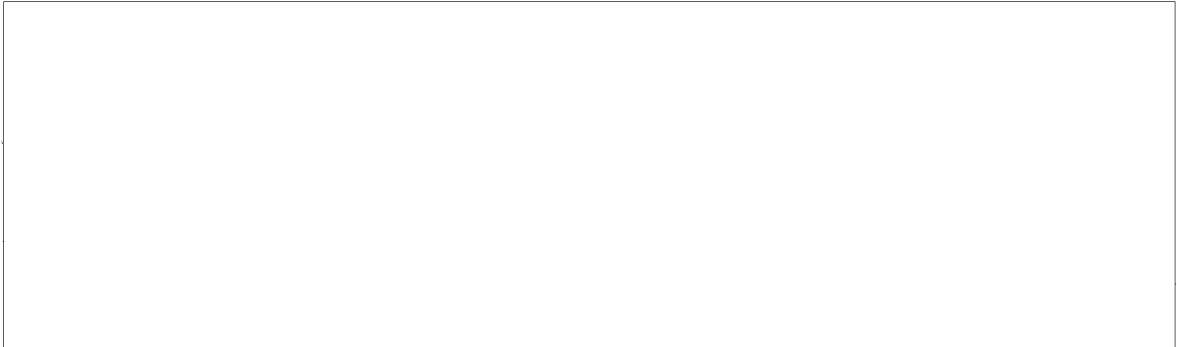
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The Group agreed that Saigon should develop an immediate capability to process film locally if the tactical information was to be of use.

It was the agreed position of the Group members that, to carry out the above recommendations in paragraph a. and part of paragraph c., three SAC U-2 aircraft, using unsanitized military aircraft and crews, will be based in Saigon. The decision will be cleared with Ambassador Lodge, and General Khanh will be so informed. General Khanh, however, will be operationally advised only of the South Vietnam mapping coverage.



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Peter Jessup

Distribution

- Mr. Johnson
- Mr. Vance
- Mr. McCone

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