21 MAR 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Publication of CIA Casualty Estimates

1. This is in reference to the injunction against the publication of reports given wide distribution which would include CIA estimates of casualties in North Vietnam. The only publication containing these estimates which was given wide distribution was the joint CIA/DIA study, "An Appraisal of the Effects of the First Year of Bombing in North Vietnam" (SC No. 08437/66), 1 June 1966. You will recall that this was the desensitized version of McNamara 1. The casualty estimates presented in that report were for calendar year 1965.

2. Since then the only published data containing our estimates of casualties are the so-called McNamara reports. All of these have, of course, had extremely limited distribution. We propose shortly to suggest the joint publication of those portions of McNamara IV which would correspond to the joint CIA/DIA publication cited above. We will, of course, not include the casualty estimates in this publication.

3. The injunction to restrict dissemination of our casualty estimates will prove helpful in resisting Department of State pressures that we include casualty estimates in the monthly DIA-CIA publication assessing the Rolling Thunder Program. These pressures have been increasing of late although we have consistently resisted them and have been able to persuade DIA to adopt the same stance when the requests were directed to them.

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WILLIAM R. MORELL, Jr.
Director
Research and Reports

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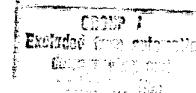
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