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June 13, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group (CI) Meeting  
2 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, The Attorney General, Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Bell,  
General Taylor, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Colby vice Mr.  
McCone

General Krulak was present for Item 1.

Mr. Koren was present for Items 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. Bowling was present for Item 4.

Mr. Maechling was present for the meeting.

1. Southeast Asia Status Report

Viet-Nam Mr. Koren commented that the Vietnamese action to follow through on funding of CI project has been most encouraging. About 64% of the rural population has been incorporated into the strategic hamlet program, and the hamlets now completed are over one-half of the projected goal. The press has reacted favorably to recent efforts to brief them on military operations. The Group reviewed the Buddhist problem and expressed concern over the hesitancy of the Vietnamese Government to take action to ease the situation. It was acknowledged that the situation could rapidly become more serious, but that the Country Team is handling the situation well.

Mr. Bell inquired about the validity of the number of returnees reflected in the status report, and what follow-through procedures are utilized to convert them into useful citizens. He observed that if good results have been achieved in this program, these facts should be exploited in the press. The Group requested State to submit a report on the results achieved in this program.

In response to Mr. Gilpatric's question on what else is being done in the Montagnard program, Mr. Koren stated that we are distributing food, medicine, and clothing to the tribesmen. Mr. Gilpatric commented that if we have a good story to tell on this program, it should be brought to the attention of the press. The Group requested State to submit a report on the successes achieved in this program.

Thailand Mr. Koren reported that the engineering survey on the first two high priority roads was completed on June 10, and the total cost is estimated at \$10 million--half of which will be paid by the Thais. He commented that reports indicate a slight increase in infiltration from Laos during the last six months but the number of suspects picked up is about double that of last year. About 3,000 individuals have gone from Thailand

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into Laos, but we are not sure how many have come back into Thailand. At the request of the Attorney General, Mr. Koren was asked to determine if a census has been taken in the Northeast provinces and what other measures have been established for population control. The Group requested State to submit a report on this subject at the June 27 meeting.

Mr. Gilpatric, in commenting on AID's action to procure .45 caliber ammunition from civilian sources to support the provincial police program, stated that Defense can provide ammunition from existing reserves if it is judged to be a high priority requirement and is brought to the attention of the proper officials within Defense. General Taylor suggested that General Krulak be contacted to assist in resolving problems of this nature.

The portable 50 KW radio transmitter, along with the operators, are ready to be moved to Thailand and Mr. Bell reported that the AID funds have been allocated. The only problem remaining is the selection of a site which will provide the best coverage into the Northeast areas.

Cambodia Mr. Bell informed the Group that MAP will fund POL and other consumables for FY 1963 but it has not been decided whether AID or MAP will fund these items in FY 1964. This latter point will depend on Congressional action taken on the FY 1964 budget.

2. Progress Report on Internal Defense Plan for Cambodia

Mr. Bell acknowledged that there were delays in funding the village kits program. He stated that a contributing factor to this delay is that the funding formula now in use divides the responsibility for civic action programs. Mr. Gilpatric agreed with Mr. Bell's observation that the current agreed funding formula should be continued and both agreed to conduct a joint review of operating procedures in implementing civic action programs.

3. Progress Report on Internal Defense Plan for Thailand

The progress report was noted by the Group as the status of programs was previously covered during the discussion of Thailand under Agenda Item One.

4. Follow-up Report on Iran

Mr. Bowling reviewed for the Group the major points contained in the State memorandum on this subject. He pointed out that a response to the Group's request for information on specific action to assist land reform and counteract the economic recession is now being formulated by the Country Team.

The Chairman commented that responsibility for following through on actions taken in these areas should be clarified as between the Special Group and the NSC Standing Group.

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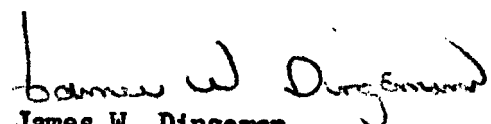
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5. Miscellaneous

A. Youth Programs. During the discussion of the Internal Defense Plans for Cambodia and Thailand, the Attorney General reviewed the sections devoted to youth programs. He commented that these sections indicated that efforts in this area are inadequate. Mr. Murrow responded by reviewing in detail the USIA program in Cambodia and cited several examples which reflect the extent of this program. Mr. Bell commented that USIA programs, although supporting youth groups, is not a substitute for a coordinated program to build leadership within the young people. There still exists a requirement to bring together all of our resources into a coordinated country program. The Attorney General described for the Group the functions of the Committee on Youth that was formulated to place emphasis on this effort. The Group agreed with his observation that in order for youth programs to be effective, they must receive the active support of the Ambassadors.

The Group requested State and USIA, in coordination with other agencies, to report back to the Group at the June 20 meeting on the scope and adequacy of U.S. youth programs in Cambodia and Thailand.

B. Training. In response to a request by the Attorney General, General Taylor agreed to submit a report at the June 27 meeting on the content of and student reaction to counterinsurgency courses now being conducted at special schools operated by the military. The Group agreed that other departments and agencies will submit reports at the June 27 meeting on the content of and student reaction to counterinsurgency courses being conducted within their school systems. It was further agreed that police training would be excluded from this report.



James W. Dingeman  
Executive Secretary  
Special Group (CI)

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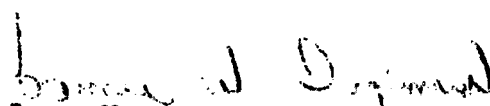
C O N F I D E N T I A L

June 7, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL GROUP (CI)

SUBJECT: Agenda for the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)  
2 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 1963

1. Southeast Asia Status Report (State) (20 Minutes)
2. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Cambodia (State)  
(20 Minutes)
3. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Thailand (State)  
(20 Minutes)
4. Follow-up Report on Iran (State) (20 Minutes)
5. Proposed Agenda for the Meeting of June 20, 1963
6. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 1963

  
James W. Dingeman  
Special Group (CI)  
Executive Secretary

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