

*Mr. McCone*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 21, 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL GROUP (CI)

SUBJECT: Paramilitary Forces in South Viet-Nam

I have attached for your perusal a table on Paramilitary Forces in South Viet-Nam, recently prepared by Major Dingeman. Although it does not purport to be a definitive study, it may be helpful to you in sorting out the various programs.

Michael V. Forrestal

~~SECRET~~PARAMILITARY FORCES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>U. S. Agency Responsible</u>
**Hamlet Militia or Village Defenders (Now Citizens Irregular Defense Groups(CIDG) Formally Montagnard Tribal Area Development Program, Part-time)	Defense of their hamlet and patrol in immediate area	Current: 15,627 - trained and armed Programmed: 42,000 - end of FY63	Now CIA - To DOD under "Switchback"
**Strike Forces (Same program as above. Full-time)	Trained patrol units, operate throughout development area, check defenses, weapons, and retrain Hamlet Militia.	Current: 6,044 - trained and armed Programmed: 13,000 - end of FY63	Now CIA - To DoD under "Switchback"
Fighting Fathers or Catholic Youth	Organize Parish centers into combat villages	Current: 3,500 - trained and armed. Programmed: potential as develops	Now CIA - to DOD under "Switchback" Note: Eventual goal of CIDG/Switchback program to train 100,000 in the Hamlet Militia, Strike Forces and Fighting Father/Catholic Youth

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OrganizationMissionStatusU. S. Agency  
Responsible

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FY 1963

Republican Youth  
Movement (RYM)

Provide the village youth  
with the capability to  
assist in the defense of  
the strategic hamlets.  
Civic action capability now  
being developed.

Current: Total approx. 1,350,000 CIA - Civic action  
of which 85,000 have program supported by  
received some military AID and CIA  
training. 4,300 retained  
at CIDG camps and armed.  
Programmed: 6,000 - end FY63  
civic action cadre  
2,600 end FY 63

Force Populaire" or  
Popular Force

Political and civic action  
to win over peasants by  
personal contact

Current: 7,000 cadre trained and CIA - Cadre will conduct  
armed training in provinces  
Programmed: 7,025 - cadre at the village level  
distributed in  
provinces

Self Defense Corps  
(Part-time)

Provide local security at  
hamlet and village level. (35  
man platoons normally operates  
as 7-man squad)

Current: over 96,000 of which MAP - support for  
50,000 trained and armed by 80,000  
MAP  
Programmed: 79,000 - end of FY63

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<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>U. S. Agency Responsible</u>
Civil Guard (Full-time)	Provide provincial security at the province and district level (130-Man companies)	Current: over 76,000 of which 40,000 trained and armed by MAP Programmed: 81,000 - end of FY63	MAP - support for 81,000
Civil Police			
a. Police and Surete	Perform normal civil police functions and special police tasks related to insurgency operations, both in rural and urban areas. Under jurisdiction of GVN/Ministry of Interior.	Current: 21,000 trained and armed Programmed: Current level maintained to end FY 63	AID
b. Gendarmerie	Perform normal military police functions and special police tasks related to insurgency operations, both in rural and urban areas. Under jurisdiction of GVN/DOD.	Current: 2,500 - trained and armed. Programmed: Current level maintained to end FY63	MAP (Proposal pending to transfer from MAP to AID)

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Note 2: Strength of Republic of Viet-Nam Armed Forces as of 15 December 1962 was as follows:

13,206 Officers	35,704 NCO's	165,140 Enlisted Men	TOTAL: 214,050
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## PARAMILITARY GROUPS SOUTH VIET-NAM

Mission: To provide local security and perform defensive tasks  
thus freeing the regular military forces to conduct  
offensive operations against the VC.

## Citizens Irregular Defense Groups

(Montagnards)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mission</u>
Hamlet Militia	Defend hamlets - inside the fence.
Strike Force	Patrol between hamlets and village hqs. Serve as reinforcement forces at district and province level. (Generally-perform same mission as SDC and CG).

Strategic Hamlet Program

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Mission</u>
Hamlet Militia	<u>Hamlet Level</u> Defend hamlets - inside the fence.
Self Defense Corps	<u>Village Level</u> Patrol between hamlets and village hqs. Platoon normally stationed at village level. Serve as reinforcement force to hamlets.
Civil Guard	<u>District Level</u> 2 Companies normally stationed at district level. Patrol between villages and district hqs. Serve as reinforcement force to villages.
Civil Guard	<u>Province Level</u> 2 Companies normally stationed at province level. Serve as reinforcement force to district.

NOTE: This chart indicates both actual and planned missions for paramilitary forces.