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62-4627/a

14 JUL 1962

**Lt. General John K. Gerhart**  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs  
United States Air Force

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 1962. I am aware of the excellent organization you are assembling at the Special Air Warfare Center. As you know, I was present at the Fire Power Demonstration display for President Kennedy on 4 May and was impressed by the quality of personnel and equipment displayed at that time. I assure you that I will do everything possible to insure close cooperation between this Agency and the Special Air Warfare Center.

As you indicate, CIA has had experience in the deployment of personnel and supplies in counter-insurgency operations. In gaining this experience, the Agency has been greatly indebted to the officers and enlisted men whom the Air Force has so generously detailed to us. I might mention two such officers who made great contributions to our efforts in this field. One is [redacted] [redacted], who commanded Agency air assets in support of [redacted]. I believe he is now working in your office under Col. John Van Deyn. [redacted] who was our Senior Air Officer in the Far East was released by the Agency last week for assignment to the Special Air Warfare Center. [redacted] has spent most of the last 10 years assigned to Agency Air Operations, and probably knows more about Agency Air Operations, techniques and equipment than any other individual.

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In contrast to the number of Air Force personnel who have been assigned to Agency air operations, our civilian personnel

USAF review(s) completed.

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*John F. Lewis*

assigned to the same duty have been few, largely because officers of the Air Force are more proficient and current in new developments and procedures. The individual you mentioned in your letter, [redacted] is the only civilian who has experience comparable to [redacted] in Agency air operations. We are most reluctant to lose [redacted] so soon after the departure of [redacted]

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We believe that you will find [redacted] up to date on the techniques and equipment employed in our present air operations. In connection with future developments, the best we can do at our present stage is to provide for the periodic consultation by one of our officers with your officers at the Special Air Warfare Center. I regret that our air operations officers are in such short supply that we are unable to furnish you a full-time liaison officer and trust that you will find my alternative proposal a satisfactory temporary answer to your requirement.

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Faithfully yours,

Signed) Marshall S. Carter  
Marshall S. Carter  
Lt. General, USA  
Deputy Director

Signature Recommended:

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[redacted] 12 JUL 1962  
Richard Helms (date)  
Deputy Director (Plans)

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DDP/[redacted] 12 Jul 62)

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[redacted] 12 JUL 1962 2  
(date)  
OC/OPSER

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee 1 - C/OPSER

12 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Air Force Request for Assignment of  
CIA Liaison Officer to Special Air Warfare  
Center.

REFERENCE: Letter to DDCI from Lt. General John K.  
Gerhart dated 14 June 1962.

1. Attached for your consideration is a suggested reply  
to General Gerhart.

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2. We have only  civilian air operations officers at  
headquarters and to assign one of these to the Special Air Warfare  
Center at Eglin would seriously impair the work of our Air Support  
Component. We would like to meet General Gerhart's request but  
the cold truth is that we are unable to do so except on the basis pro-  
posed in the attached reply.



Richard Helms  
Deputy Director (Plans)

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Attachment

~~SECRET~~

Executive Registry

62-4627



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

2.3132

14 June 1962

Lt. General Marshall S. Carter  
Deputy Director  
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Pat

As you know, the U. S. Air Force activated a unit in the spring of 1961 to provide a counterinsurgency capability for deployment to trouble spots throughout the world. We have recently enlarged the unit to the equivalent of air division strength and renamed it the Special Air Warfare Center.

One of the responsibilities assigned to the Center is to develop and test not only equipment but ideas and techniques as well, which may prove useful in the counterinsurgency field. In this connection, I have long been of the opinion that the Agency has a wealth of experience in this field that should be more actively exploited. As a first step in this direction, I felt that a liaison officer from the Agency should be established with the Headquarters of the Special Air Warfare Center. Exchanges of correspondence in January and May between my Director of Plans, Major General Burchinal, and your Deputy Director for Plans Office have produced negative results. The reply to our May request regretted that [redacted] could not be made available. [redacted] qualifications are well known to some of my officers who work with the Agency on a daily basis and we therefore requested his assignment on a "name" basis. Perhaps that was our mistake.

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At any rate, I feel that the subject warrants your personal attention and would appreciate your assistance in this matter. For your information, General Sweeney, Commander, Tactical Air Command, sent me an unsolicited request for a liaison officer in the same position I have described. It seems obvious to me that a great deal of mutual benefit to the Agency and the USAF must inevitably accrue if we can arrange for closer coordinated planning.

Sincerely



JOHN K. GERHART  
Lt. General, USAF

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003000180021-9

SECRET

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| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY   |                      |                | STAT                     |
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| 1   | DD/P                 | STAT           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2   | <input type="text"/> |                |                          |
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| ACTION  | DIRECT REPLY         | PREPARE REPLY  |                          |
| APPROVAL  | DISPATCH             | RECOMMENDATION |                          |
| COMMENT   | FILE                 | RETURN         |                          |
| CONCURRENCE   | INFORMATION          | SIGNATURE      |                          |
| <b>Remarks:</b><br>DDCI desires Agency reaction to this request and a draft of a possible reply (Note General Gerhart's indication in para 2 that previous correspondence exchanges with DD/P "have produced negative results.")<br>General Carter describes his own reaction as "initially allergic, but need advice."<br>SUSPENSE: 11 July 1962.<br><i>By Tom ... to 12 July 4 H.</i> |                      |                |                          |
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER   |                      |                |                          |
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.   |                      |                | DATE                     |
| Exec Asst to DDCI   |                      |                | 7/5/62                   |
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