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25 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Agency Assignments

1. I have already mentioned the fact that the terms of reference for the four sets of papers (CIA, DOD, State and White House) are not tightly written (from a logical point of view), embody considerable overlap (e.g., we and DOD are asked, in effect, to produce duplicate reaction estimates), and some inappropriate tasking (e.g., asking State to gauge U.S. domestic opinion and ways in which it can be manipulated).

2. On the CIA assignment itself:

a. These are all questions within our area of responsibility, with the possible exception of the one on "enemy" (does this mean Communist?) political capabilities in the U.S. (A(c)). This is really outside our province and though I do not wish to quibble, neither do I want us making judgments in politically charged areas that could haunt us in the future.

b. Our terms need some tidying up, but we do not need to press for major changes.

c. We do need to know what kind of final paper is wanted: a distillate of summary judgments and conclusions or a detailed argument -- i.e., a ten-page piece or a fifty-plus page work incorporating graphs and annexes.

25X1

SECRET/

25X1

SECRET/

d. Responding to these terms will require brokering and tasking within the Agency which will not be too easy to accomplish without (a) briefing several more people on the total requirement, and/or (b) raising organizational hackles. You need not raise these internal matters with your colleagues, however, and I will figure a way to solve them.

e. You should indicate that we may not be able to answer all these questions in detail -- e.g., we can give some reasoned estimates on the state of the VC infrastructure, but could not promise accurate sub-estimates for the state of that infrastructure in each of South Vietnam's 44 provinces.

f. We are already working on the continuing audit responsibility and the document problem. The latter will not be whipped within three weeks.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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- 2 -  
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