

S-E-C-R-E-T

28 FEB 1964

Covering Explanation

The history of the Agency's effort in Vietnam is to be prepared in three parts with a supplement.

The Chronicle of Events -

This will be the actual history and will be compiled from the information contained in Appendices A and B. According to the present plan this will be prepared under a classification of SECRET.

(Between the Chronicle and Appendices A and B will exist a "Need-to-Know" wall; only those persons with appropriate clearances and a demonstrated need to know will have access to the detailed reports and debriefings, with their annotated bibliographies and exemplars. Materials of this type which are classified SECRET and have no security holds will be made available with the history and maintained in the files of the Historical Staff, Office of the DCI. Unusual material of higher sensitivity will be maintained in a safe file of the appropriate office; this location will be so indicated in the records and will be available to appropriate individuals with accessibility.)

Appendix A - This will include all debriefings, special reports prepared at the request of the chronicler for consolidation of existing records or documenting aspects of Agency activities not adequately recorded, studies and reports drafted in response to other requirement but satisfying specific needs of this compilation, and other papers of the Agency which bear upon the history of Vietnam (Indochina 1950 to 1954).

Appendix B - Reference materials will be reflected beyond those included in Appendix A. Here will be located extended annotations, pertinent reference notes, exemplars, charts and maps which pertain to documents in Appendix A or relate directly to the Chronicle and are noted therein.

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A HISTORY OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM - 1950-1963

Introduction

First, the period of reintroduction of clandestine efforts in Vietnam (Indochina) - 1950 to 1953. This will cover the period of [REDACTED] operations and into the assignment of the first over-all Chief of Mission and up to the Dien Bien Phu incident.

Second, the period of French retrenchment, the Geneva Convention and followup Vietnamese action, and the initial Agency-US build-up - 1954 to 1957. This will include

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[REDACTED]
the Saigon Military Mission, the regrouping of Station operations out of the Embassy and USOM (USAID) and the assumption and solidifying of power of the Diem regime.

Third, the period of Viet Cong quiescence. President Diem's slipping away from his initial position of strength, the degradation of his earlier principles of national improvement in favor of Ngo family pressures and goals, and the expansion of Agency activities - 1957 to 1960.

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[REDACTED]
the loss of Diem's support, the closing of the borders, the utilization of unilateral assets, the increase in support effects, and the resurgence of Viet Cong attacks in North Vietnam.

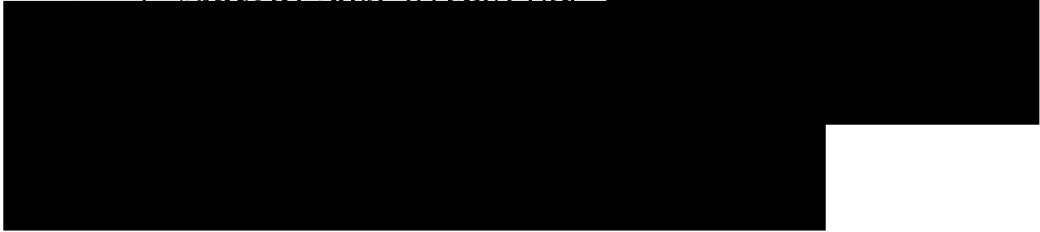
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the Taylor Mission and followup interdepartmental
efforts to transfer para-military operations from
Agency control and direction.



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