

3-5166

- 1 OCT 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

9-7474

SUBJECT: Topics of Possible Discussion with U. S. Ambassador to Laos, J. Graham Parsons

1. We have summarized below for consideration of the Director of Central Intelligence topics of possible discussion with the U.S. Ambassador to Laos, The Honorable J. Graham Parsons, on 4 October.
2. Operation Brotherhood. While the base unit and four provincial teams continue activities as before, Operation Brotherhood is being partially integrated with the Civic Action program to provide medical instruction to Civic Action personnel. ICA budgeted to cover most of the costs of this activity in FY 1958 but has not yet determined the exact extent of its support, pending recommendations from ICA/Laos on the breakdown of funds for the various projects within its overall Laos budget. (Ambassador Parsons' influence over ICA/Laos planning is, of course, singularly important.) FE Division's budget for this program is near depletion. FE Division has maintained that support of Operation Brotherhood is not clearly within the scope of CIA responsibilities.
3. Civic Action. Of the first four teams graduated from the Civic Action Training School, one is in the field and the others were scheduled for assignment in September 1957, including one to each of the disputed provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua. The second training class of 90 students is in process. ICA has provided for most of the costs of this program in its FY 1958 budget but, as with Operation Brotherhood, the extent of projected support has not yet been defined. Although CIA accepted action responsibility for the formative stages of Civic Action, FE Division believes that this program, like Operation Brotherhood, should not be sustained largely by CIA and has advised Vientiane Station to proceed with an orderly transfer to ICA of support responsibilities for both programs, in accordance with previous understanding.
4. Auto-Defense. Progress in Auto-Defense activities has been retarded of late by the confinement of operations to defensive action, in response to Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's policy, and by CIA personnel problems, which have reduced the CIA team assigned to this project. FE Division is seeking a ranking officer to direct this program and to make maximum advantage otherwise of the fine relationship established by the Vientiane Station with the Lao Army Chief of Staff and his deputies.

FE

[61-221,641, File A-11]

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

8. Indoctrination Centers. Ambassador Parsons recently proposed to help the Lao Government establish indoctrination centers for refugees, prisoners and defectors from the Pathet Lao. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)

The proposal has not yet been fully coordinated in Washington but it appears to have merit.

9. Personnel.

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

c. For the Director's information, [REDACTED] the newly appointed Chief of Station for Laos, has not yet had the opportunity to meet Ambassador Parsons because the latter left Laos before [REDACTED] arrival. A commendable word by the Director to Ambassador Parsons regarding [REDACTED] might be helpful.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

(b)(1)  
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(b)(1)  
(b)(1)  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Chief, Far East Division

cc: DECI