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28 NOV 1961

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. U. Alexis Johnson  
Deputy Under Secretary of State  
for Political Affairs**

**SUBJECT : Status Report on CIA Programs,  
Vietnam**

1. Attached herewith is a comprehensive but concise outline of the range of operations being undertaken by this Agency jointly with the Government of Vietnam against the Viet Cong. You will note that we have outlined our program at some length to provide a backdrop against which future developments may be viewed.

2. I would point out that the "montagnard" project mentioned in paragraph 1. a., the air operation under commercial cover in paragraph 1. c., and the Clandestine Action Service itself are the three political and paramilitary activities being either newly initiated or significantly expanded as part of the set of measures recommended by General Maxwell D. Taylor and approved by the President. The rural reconstruction operation mentioned in paragraph 1. b. is of the same character. It has been in progress for some time but will be stepped up.

3. The activities listed in paragraphs 1. d., 1. e., 1. i., 2., 3., and 4. are the ones principally affected by and responsive to the newly emphasized priority on the improvement of internal intelligence in the country.

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4. Subject to further guidance from the Department, we plan to adhere to the attached outline in subsequent periodic reports, showing substantive developments as appropriate.

**FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS):**

Signed Desmond FitzGerald

**Desmond FitzGerald  
Chief, Far East Division**

**Attachment:  
Blind memo re Covert  
Actions in Vietnam**

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