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COVERT ACTIONS IN VIETNAM

1. The following paragraphs summarize the program which CIA is now undertaking in liaison with the Government of Vietnam (GVN). Not included are those purely unilateral activities which are for the most part agent penetrations of government and opposition political parties and of the ministries and security services of the GVN.

a. Establishment of intelligence, psychological warfare, political action, and paramilitary acts in the central provinces of South Vietnam employing montagnard (highlander) personnel with the objective of gaining village support in identifying Viet Cong agents and activities and in neutralizing them.

b. Rural reconstruction operations conducted in the eastern region of South Vietnam employing small teams of volunteers engaged in reactivation of village administration, medical assistance to villagers, establishment of village defense systems, and the formation of intelligence networks to report on Viet Cong agents and activities in villages.

c. Establishment and financial support of a Vietnamese commercial company, Vietnamese Air Transport (VIAT), to provide commercial cover for a variety of aircraft and crews of various nationalities to man them in support of joint paramilitary/intelligence missions directed against the Viet Cong in Laos and North Vietnam. In South Laos there are three teams in operation against Viet Cong feeding stations and their lines of communications which transit South Laos into South Vietnam. Two teams and one singleton agent teams are in place and operating in North Vietnam collecting information for future action operations. Tentative plans are under way to add additional sabotage and harassment teams in North Vietnam in December and January.

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d. Establishment, guidance, training, and financial support to the newly organized Central Intelligence Organization (CIO) which has been given over-all responsibility for collating and evaluating all intelligence from Vietnamese sources and acts as the central coordinating body for intelligence activities of all GVN services, both military and civilian.

e. Training of National Police and Surete Service (NPSS) in countersubversion techniques and support and guidance of operations run jointly with the NPSS to penetrate the Viet Cong mechanism in South Vietnam. Plans are being developed for revitalizing a nationwide "Special Branch" for Viet Cong penetration operations when final transfer of the NPSS to the CIO is effected within the very near future.

f. Viet Cong penetration operations run jointly with the Military Security Service (MSS) in the Saigon-Cholon area and training of MSS personnel in countersubversion techniques.

g. Covert political and psychological warfare activities targetted against the DRV and run jointly with the Vietnamese National Army Psychological Warfare Directorate. These include "black" and "gray" radio operations, propaganda leaflet drops over North Vietnam territory, and a letter-writing campaign through which anti-DRV propaganda material is forwarded to North Vietnam via the international mails.

h. Development of operations against targets of opportunity jointly with the Presidential Security Service, also known as the Service d'Etudes Politiques et Sociales (SEPES), and utilization of operational, CI and CE information developed through liaison with this service in support of all operations against the DRV as outlined above.

i. Special Intelligence operations with the South Vietnamese Intercept Service against the DRV and Viet Cong targets in South Vietnam.

2. As an adjunct to these liaison activities with the Vietnamese, both CIA and MAAG are also now entering into an expanded program of placement of intelligence advisors into the military and civilian components of Vietnamese intelligence and security services. In an effort to improve the functioning of the NPSS, CIA is in progress of placing one representative at each of six NPSS Directorates. These CIA officers are to be supplemented by U. S. Army military intelligence specialists who will work with and advise the NPSS at the provincial level, insofar as the NPSS intelligence function is concerned. The CIA officers at the directorate level will, in addition, regularly visit their provincial counterparts to exchange ideas and to improve the targetting and conduct of intelligence operations. MAAG, on its part, is placing intelligence advisors at General Staff J-2, Field Command G-2, Corps G-2, Division G-2, and Regimental S-2 levels. In addition to and separate from these advisors, an intelligence staff is being established under Chief, MAAG to supervise the operations of these advisors and to process information coming from them.

3. The Evaluation Center, which has heretofore existed as a means of collating all source information for use primarily in identifying military targets is also being expanded through contributions of personnel by all U. S. agencies engaged in intelligence collection in Vietnam. A fulltime CIA officer has been assigned to the Evaluation Center.

4. In addition, there has been established an intelligence committee with representatives from appropriate U. S. agencies in Saigon, chaired by CIA, the purpose of which is to provide regular reporting to Washington plus special reporting on emergency situations as they arise.

5. Provincial surveys designed to assess the criticality of intelligence collection, economic and programs, etc., are also now being organized under the direction of Ambassador Nolting.

CIA is contributing to these surveys by the assignment of personnel now in Saigon and by the provision of TDY personnel. It is estimated that these surveys will begin early in December and will last approximately four months.

6. CIA is also exploring with the Department of State the possibility of obtaining policy authorization for the use of a small number of Chinese Nationalist personnel as pilots and Special Forces instructors for covert operations mounted from South Vietnam.