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STATUS REPORT
ON
COVERT ACTIONS IN VIETNAM
(Keyed to 28 November Report)

DO NOT FILE
IN THE
NO FILE
C. 4134

1. a. Montagnard (Highlander) Program:

No significant change.

b. Rural Reconstruction Operations:

No significant change.

c. Para-Military/Intelligence Operations Against Viet Cong in South Laos, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam; Commercial Air Cover Company:

The junk which departed for North Vietnam on a mission to resupply an agent in the area of Quang Yen (northeast of Haiphong) turned back because of bad weather and heavy seas. An attempt will be made to resupply the agent as soon as weather conditions permit.

The agent team near Dien Bien Phu advised Saigon, using a danger signal in a radio message, that it was under DRV control. This is the second team of four originally infiltrated into North Vietnam to be captured by the DRV. False instructions are being radioed to the team instructing them to prepare for a notional airdrop. The fiction is being attempted by Saigon in an effort to keep the team alive in the remote hope that the DRV might consider the team has been doubled against the GVN and permit them to exfiltrate.

There has been no radio contact with the agent team in the Dong Hoi area of North Vietnam since 2 December 1961.

Four agents who are residents of Pak Sane, Laos (near the Lao-Thai border in Vientiane Province), have been recruited to infiltrate overland into the Vinh area of North Vietnam to observe and report on military traffic along Route 7.

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TOP SECRET

A unit of the Clandestine Action Service (CIAS) infiltrated overland from Lao Bao on Route 9, South Vietnam, into South Laos to reconnoiter the Sa Moi area and verify reports that the Vietnamese Communists have established two installations in the area. If the Viet Communist installations are located, the CIAS unit will attack and attempt to destroy them. Three 14-man paramilitary teams will accompany the CIAS unit during the initial stages of this operation. The paramilitary teams will then move westward into the vicinity of Muong Nong, Laos (approximately 25 miles southeast of Tchepone).

Twenty district intelligence officers completed training on 26 December 1961 and departed for Kontum, Pleiku, Quang Ngai, Quang Nam, and Binh Dinh Provinces to establish highlander intelligence nets. Ten radio operators with radios accompanied the intelligence officers assigned to the districts of Pleiku and Kontum.

d through 1: No significant change.

2 through 5: No significant change.

6. Use of Chinese Nationalist Personnel:

The GVN approved the use of 20 Chinese Nationalist aircrews in operations against the Vietnamese Communists in South Laos and South Vietnam. The GVN also approved use of 30 Nationalist Chinese Special Forces personnel to assist in training civilian Vietnamese in South Vietnam in unconventional warfare techniques. The GVN agreed to comply with the GRC request to have all covert assistance matters be handled through CAS channels.

7. Other Activities:

Three paramilitary teams used in the search for a missing MAAG sergeant traced him to a Vietnamese Communist camp 30 miles northwest of Saigon. The teams captured 10 Vietnamese Communist prisoners during the search, one of whom claims to have delivered the sergeant to the Vietnamese Communist camp. The information was passed to a Vietnamese airborne brigade for follow up action.

The "Hindustan Times of India" carried a positive article on South Vietnam written by an Indian correspondent who had been briefed and guided by CAS during his visit to Saigon.

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