

Chronology of Document Releases Related to
U.S. Foreign Policy in Vietnam (as of October 27, 1997)

<u>Date of Document and RIF #</u>	<u>Originator</u>	<u>Remarks/Highlights</u>
May 8, 1963: 202-10002-10027	JCS	<p>Complete minutes of Eighth SECDEF Conference on Vietnam held on May 6, 1963 in Hawaii. Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SECDEF orders 1000-man withdrawal by December 1963, and wants units removed, rather than individuals--says specific withdrawal plan needed for both foreign and domestic purposes; -SECDEF orders that the Chiefs accelerate planning for U.S. turnover of war to GVN and eventual withdrawal on a more rapid timetable than presented in the then-current CPSVN; -During restricted session, CINCPAC OPLAN 33-62 is discussed; possibility of hitting air targets in Laos with <i>overt</i> U.S. military force is discussed; concept of implementation of <i>covert</i> operations inside North Vietnam by non-U.S. forces is discussed. Gen. Wheeler supports such covert operations by GVN against the North, and states that proposals for overt action (against the North) invited a negative Presidential decision.
July 8, 1963: 202-10002-10013	Army HQ	<p>Typed memo schedules briefing of JCS by Lt Col Vann for July 8, 1963 and also contains marginalia which reads "7/8/63 Canceled by CSA."</p>
Sep 11, 1963: 202-10002-10071	Unknown	<p>Study on implication of total or partial cessation of U.S. military aid upon</p>

the military campaign in the Republic of Vietnam.

- Sep 11, 1963: 202-10002-10085 **Chairman, JCS** Memo for SECDEF detailing **projected U.S. strength totals in SVN from August-December, 1963**
- Oct 4, 1963: 202-10002-10093 **Chairman, JCS** Draft message prepared by Gen. Taylor for consideration by Chiefs--Subject: **Approved Actions for South Vietnam (i.e., approved by the President following the McNamara-Taylor visit to SVN which culminated in their Oct 2, 1963 written report to the President).** Highlights include:
 -complete military campaign in Northern and Central areas by end of 1964, and in Delta by end of 1965;
 -accelerate programs to train Vietnamese in performing all tasks now performed by Americans, so that Vietnamese can perform by end of 1965;
 -prepare Vietnamese forces for withdrawal of all U.S. forces by end of CY 1965;
 -execute plan to withdraw 1000 U.S. military personnel by end of 1963.
 Treat this as "low key" in the public affairs arena.
- Oct 31, 1963: 202-10002-10092 **Col. Rogers (for JCS** Memo for Director, Joint Staff, **Chairman Taylor) Subj: 1,000 U.S. Military Withdrawl from Vietnam**
- Nov 1, 1963: 202-10002-10081 **Joint Staff** Fact Sheet: **Evacuation of South**

Vietnam (contingency plans for)

Dec 2, 1963: 202-10002-10075

Col. R. C. Forbes
(Deputy Secretary,
Joint Staff)Memo, Subject: **Situation in
South Vietnam and Recent
Military Operations in that Country.**

Highlights:

- SECDEF told the Chiefs at a Dec 2, 1963 mtg that there was an urgent need for the development of a plan to place increasing pressure on North Vietnam;
- SECDEF directed that he receive weekly status reports on Vietnam at the regular Monday weekly mtg;
- SECDEF agreed to Chairman, JCS meeting with McGeorge Bundy to ensure that participants of Nov 20, 1963 Honolulu mtg on Vietnam meet in Washington in near future to ensure continuity in follow-up actions to Nov. 20 mtg and NSAM 273.

Dec 11, 1963: 202-10002-10109

CAPT Law, USN
(Executive Sec.)**Talking Paper dated Dec 10,
1963 for JCS Meeting with CINCPAC
on Dec 11, 1963.** Highlights include:

- DOD actions to implement NSAM 273 of November 26, 1963, which include the direction for unilateral U.S. military action against North Vietnam that was directed in paragraph 7 of the NSAM. DOD actions include:

- Planning for intensified ops against NVN directed by JCS 3697 of Nov 26, 1963 following Honolulu conference, in the form of a 12-month program, for which planning must be completed by Dec 20, 1963.

- Mention of advice to CIA

against discussing these ops with GVN.

-SECDEF cable of Dec 2, 1963 directing rapid completion of these plans against NVN is cited.

Dec 12, 1963: 202-10002-10082

Curtis LeMay Memo for SECDEF, **Subject: U.S. Military Strength in RVN; projects year-end strength ceiling** of 15, 894--an increase of 162 over original figure, and says "this new strength ceiling will not be affected by the withdrawal of 1,000 personnel now in progress."

Dec 26, 1963: 202-10002-10112

Director, Joint Staff Memo for Chairman, JCS, **Subject: Military Operations in North Vietnam, JCSM 716-63.**
Highlights include:
-On Sep 12, 63 the JCS recommended that SECDEF secure concurrence of State in concepts in OPLAN 34-63, and that State initiate action to obtain concurrence of GVN also.
-However, in attached memo of Dec 19, Roswell Gilpatric states that JCS request of Sep 12 has been overtaken by larger planning project and that no further action by SECDEF is contemplated on JCSM 716-63.
-On Dec 21 SECDEF briefed the President on recent trip to Vietnam and his brief included coverage on proposed plans for ops against NVN: COMUSMACV-CAS Saigon OPLAN 34A-64.

-Interdepartmental Committee formed at SECDEF's recommendation to examine various actions planned against NVN under OPLAN 34A, and first mtg held on Dec 23.

-Gilpatric Memo for Chairman, JCS dated Dec 19, 1963 is attached.

Highlights:

-Informs Chairman that developments culminating in Honolulu mtg led to Defense-CIA planning culminating in 12-month program against NVN. That will include proposals made by Gen Krulak in CINCPAC OPLAN 34-63.

-Accordingly, JCS request for State concurrence of Sep 12 is "O.B.E."

Aug 12, 1964: 202-10002-10002

Chairman, JCS Memo for Deputy SECDEF, Subject: Resumption of 34A Actions. (Note: written immediately after Gulf of Tonkin incidents resulting from OPLAN 34A operations by U.S. forces)

Dec 31, 1964: 202-10002-10003

Chairman, JCS Message to CINCPAC and COMUSMACV of Dec 31, 1964 which details success of OPLAN 34A ops during the previous 12 months, and discusses increasing the OPTEMPO of these operations. Attached are appendices which appear to detail all of

the OPLAN 34A
operations during the
previous 12 months.