

DECLASSIFIED

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By ip, NARS, Date 3-29-79

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

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Classification

Origin  
Info

ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON PRIORITY  
CINCPAC PRIORITY  
COMUSMACV PRIORITY

DECLASSIFIED

STATE 114390

NODIS

FOR AMB. BUNKER, ADMIRAL SHARP, GEN WESTMORELAND

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: Command Relationships (U)

1. In reviewing measures that might be taken to provide a more effective prosecution of the Vietnam war, consideration is being given to the thought of developing a command arrangement that would increase the authority of COMUSMACV over RVNAF and third country forces. One of the command arrangements specifically in mind would be similar to SEATO Plans 5 and 8 wherein a Vietnamese (possibly President Thieu) would be the overall Force Commander and the United States would provide the Field Force Commander.
2. Your comments are requested on the feasibility and desirability of this or other command arrangements which might permit more effective conduct of the war. This should not repeat not be discussed with Vietnamese. It is appreciated that any change to existing command authorities would be a delicate and time-consuming effort involving the highest level of ~~xxx~~ interest.
3. Would appreciate your comments by 19 February.

~~CP-3~~

END

Drafted by:

George G. Ryffel, Col. USMC  
Jt. Staff

Telegraphic transmission, and  
classification approved by:

EA-P.C. Habib

Clearances:

OSD/ISA-Mr. Steadman

CJCS-Gen. Wheeler

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