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2. Pres. file
Tuesday,
September 12, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

General Westmoreland has sent in his August assessment of the situation in Vietnam. I have had prepared a general summary of the message and one-page summaries for each Corps area for your use.

W. W. Rostow

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By kg, NARA, Date 9-24-91

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SUBJECT: Summary of General Westmoreland's Monthly Assessment for
August, 1967

General

Enemy strategy during the period remained as before; however, his major tactical orientation shifted to terrorist/guerrilla/propaganda activities in an effort to disrupt the national elections.

He continued to threaten in the DMZ and western highlands. His early August effort in the western highlands was met and defeated by ARVN forces. The anticipated enemy attack in the DMZ has not yet materialized, primarily because of our intense artillery, tactical air, and B-52 strikes which disrupted his attack preparations.

He continues to have supply and manpower difficulties in the coastal areas of the First and Second Corps and in the Fourth Corps. Continued friendly offensive pressure in these areas has prevented any respite.

His attacks by fire against our bases have increased as he attempts to avoid contact and to achieve psychological victories. Friendly counter attacks are beginning to show more success as evidenced by the Marine capture of rockets in firing positions.

Significant pacification progress continues but, in general, the program is behind schedule relative to overall goals for 1967. The preoccupation of Vietnamese provincial officials with the elections temporarily delayed progress

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E.O. 12356, Sec 3.3
DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1988
By 68, NARA Date 9-24-91

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FIRST CORPS

Objectives for the First Corps during August were to:

curb infiltration,

destroy enemy forces and bases,

prevent disruption of the elections,

and, protect vital areas.

Progress was excellent in all areas. Enemy base area neutralization and complete denial of artillery, rocket and mortar attacks on vital areas are continuing requirements.

US/Free World Forces

Thirteen battalion-size or larger operations were conducted.

1,254 of the enemy were killed and 1,269 probably were killed. 354 weapons, including 81 140mm rockets were captured.

Task force OREGON neutralized enemy base area 117, killing 397 of the enemy and capturing 158 weapons.

3,800 rounds of 175mm artillery interdicted the A Shau Valley.

Long range patrols made progress in locating enemy infiltration routes from Laos.

Air fields at Dong Ha and Ky Sanh are under repair as result of rain and enemy rocket/mortar fire.

Work continued on strong point obstacle system along the DMZ. Enemy action in the area continues to obstruct construction.

ARVN

ARVN morale was high -- desertions decreased and strength increased. 47 operations were conducted, with 653 enemy killed and 325 weapons captured.

Pacification progress was slowed by GVN preoccupation with pre-election activities. Slowdown is not considered critical.

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DA Memo. Jan 5, 1988

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SECOND CORPS

Continued progress was made during August in defeating the enemy, extending Government of Vietnam control and fostering development of a viable economy.

US/Free World Forces

Military operations killed 1,452 and captured 344 of the enemy; prevented disruption of elections; reduced his ability to subsist on the land or to force requisitions upon the people; and denied him his primary objectives.

Major confrontations occurred in key areas of the western highlands and the coastal plains. Pressure was maintained throughout the Second Corps by ARVN, Regional Force and Popular Forces in numerous search and destroy, cordon and search, and road opening operations.

ARVN

ARVN forces show an increased capability to defeat the enemy. ARVN commanders show more initiative and imagination in conduct of operations.

The pacification program continues to grow; 377 Chieu Hoi ralliers returned in August as compared to 264 in July. Security, economic gains, and expanding Revolutionary Development activities are significant indices of progress.

The people are evidencing increased confidence in the Government of Vietnam. There is increasing optimism. Preparations for the national elections dominated civilian activity. More people are returning to their former homes. Infiltration is being controlled and the flow of goods has increased.

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THIRD CORPS

Operations focused on strengthening security in the countryside and defeat of enemy efforts to sabotage the national elections.

US/Free World Forces

Friendly forces took 400 prisoners. 12,500 acres of jungle were cleared along major routes and near population centers, a 36 percent increase over July. Several base areas were destroyed. Major lines of communication and population centers were secured so that North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong forces were unable to exert significant influence on the population prior to the national elections.

ARVN

Vietnamese Armed Forces operational effectiveness has improved. Ineffective officer leadership was a target for corrective action.

District operations and intelligence coordinating centers are beginning to produce hard intelligence on Viet Cong civil and military infrastructure.

There is increasing evidence that North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong main force units are avoiding significant contact. The loss of cadre and shortages of medicine, food, and ammunition have caused a decline of morale in enemy units.

Progress in the pacification program, though steady, remains far behind schedule. However, the Vietnamese public shows increased confidence in the Government of Vietnam's ability to win the war. The number of Chieu Hoi returnees continues to run ahead of last year (although they declined from 742 to 500 this month).

32 ARVN battalions completed the Revolutionary Development training program.

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FOURTH CORPS

There was continued improvement in small unit actions to provide greater security for Revolutionary Development teams and lines of communication. Regional Force and Popular Force units are displaying modest, though spotty improvement.

As a result, the Viet Cong were not capable of sustained disruptions of our lines of communication.

The over-all morale, combat effectiveness, and fighting spirit of the Vietnamese Armed Forces units in the Fourth Corps is good. We are carrying the conflict to the enemy.

169 Vietnamese Armed Forces battalion or larger size operations conducted.

19,000 ARVN soldiers were lifted in air mobile operations.

1,005 enemy were killed and 332 weapons captured.

10 enemy base areas were penetrated.

No attacks occurred against friendly civilian ships.

Pacification made progress but remained behind schedule in relation to 1967 goals.

Chieu Hoi returnees increased 80 percent over August 1966.

80 percent of the new life hamlets and 85 percent of the consolidated hamlets programmed for first semester were completed as of August 31.

Indications exist that the Viet Cong believe they are losing control of the population.

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E.O. 12056, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo Jan. 5, 1993

By 18 NARA Date 9-24-91

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