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37

Pres file

Saturday, October 7, 1967
8:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith Bill Leonhart presents the first
of Bob Komer's pacification reports, covering
August.

It is clear that with the elections over and
the organization set up we've got to get some
momentum going again.

The rise in Chieu Hoi and refugees (para. 10)
continues the population movement in the right
direction.

W. W. Rostow

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By sis, NARS, Date 6-22-84

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

37a

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October 6, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

1. Bob Komer has just forwarded the monthly pacification assessment for August. It is in a new format based on field reporting of functional activities instead of Corps areas, and so is not directly comparable with Westmoreland's July report (my memorandum to you of September 6 - attached).
2. Komer reports progress in intangibles -- public attitudes, appeal of the elections, pace of civilian and commercial activity. But his basic finding is that August was "an unimpressive month" in pacification activities, principally because of GVN preoccupation with the election campaign.
3. On control statistics, Komer's hamlet status figures show slight declines: 31 hamlets downgraded from GVN control to contested; 19 upgraded from VC control to contested.
4. Population control figures are 68.4% for GVN; 16.5% for VC; and 14.5% for contested -- again slight downward movements in both GVN and VC control in favor of the contested middle.
5. A summary of country-wide highlights prepared by my staff is attached, together with the full report.

William Leonhart
William Leonhart

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST PACIFICATION ASSESSMENT

1. Attack on the VC Infrastructure

Only limited results achieved though much may be occurring of which we are unaware. This weakness in reporting base is being corrected. Some progress made as in Quang Tin Province where 46% of the infrastructure has been identified, but no effective action yet taken. Intelligence on the infrastructure continues to improve under the new ICEX program.

2. Expanding and Improving Territorial Security

a. Hamlet Status

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
GVN Control (ABC Category)	5,188	41.4
Contested (DE Category)	2,723	21.6
VC Control	4,038	31.9
Other	693	5.1
	12,642	100.0

Compared with July the changes were not significant. Some 31 hamlets moved from GVN control mainly to the contested category and 19 hamlets moved from VC control, mainly to contested.

b. Population Status

	<u>People</u>	<u>%</u>
GVN Control	11,610,000	68.4
Contested	2,476,900	14.5
VC Control	2,821,400	16.5
Other	128,900	.6
	17,037,200	100.0

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- 2 -

Compared with July, percentages show a slight downward trend in both GVN and VC control and an upward revision in the contested and other categories.

3. Corps RD Security Status

- a. I Corps security continues to be hampered by threatened enemy attacks in many areas throughout the Corps.
- b. II Corps security improved somewhat overall, except in Phuc Yen Province.
- c. III Corps security no major expansion. Military operations in Long Khanh and Binh Duong aided security along Highways 1, 13, and 20.
- d. IV Corps security little change except as temporarily evidenced in support of elections and during redeployment of ARVN battalions in support of new RD hamlet areas.

4. Expanding RD Team Effort and Associated Programs

Picture spotty, but RD teams and associated programs continued to make satisfactory progress. 491 RD and 120 Montagnard teams were in the field. Team morale and performance generally on the upswing; success noted from use of civil/military and quarter zone RD team variations. New recruitment techniques showing excellent results.

5. Accelerating the Chieu Hoi Effort

Perhaps brightest spot in the pacification effort. Rate of return continues double last year. III Corps shows the greatest improvement with triple the number of last year's returnees, thus eliciting three major VC attacks on Chieu Hoi installations during August. IV Corps program rated best administered.

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- 3 -

6. Improving the Refugee Effort

I Corps problems remain acute, as war's intensity has generated about 450,000 refugees who temporarily overburden material and personnel resources. Remedial efforts now being made. Elsewhere, program effort concentrated on distribution of commodities, improvement of living conditions, and resettlement.

7. Expanding Police Effort

August dominated by security preparations for the elections, which emphasized national shortage of police personnel. Resources control in I Corps and Field Force effort in IV Corps are inadequate and CORDS is reviewing both programs.

8. Public Administration, Public Works, etc.

Komer reports special progress in Quang Tri program for pig breeding, insecticide distribution, self-help and construction of maternity dispensaries. Public Works program has "generally uninspiring record" throughout the country.

9. Status of Pacification Resources

Direct support units increased overall, except for a reduction of one ARVN battalion and several hundred National Police. RF companies were up by 9; PF platoons up by 12; RD teams up by 39; Montagnard teams up 1; and Static Census Grievance teams up slightly.

10. Indicator Trends

Chieu Hoi returnees increased from 1,864 in July to 2,131 in August. Refugees from 24,575 to 62,700. VC incidents up from 3,096 to 3,191; terrorism up from 318 to 610; civilian casualties from 456 to 914. RD plans continued to be behind in all Corps, with

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- 4 -

I and III Corps lagging badly but II and IV Corps showing some hopeful signs.

11. Enemy Reactions to Pacification Offensives

In I Corps, VC ability to conduct widespread attacks has thwarted the program although there were no major setbacks. In II Corps, the enemy assigned additional military forces to combat the election and disrupt the pacification effort. In III Corps, NVA/VC main force units avoided contact, but guerrillas retained a formidable capacity to deliver heavy rocket, mortar, and recoilless rifle fire against fixed installations. In IV Corps, VC continued to probe with violent small unit attacks.

12. Areas Requiring Special Attention

Komer cites refugees and effective action against the infrastructure as major concerns in August.

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