

TRANSLATION

Letter N° 4192/EMIFT/4/US/80  
dated 31 October 1954.

SUBJECT : MAAG request for information concerning U.S.  
shipping requirements.  
REFERENCE : MAAG letter dated 15 October 1954.

Forwarding herewith to you a report on the current situation of shipping, as requested by MAAG in letter dated 8 October 1954, I have the honor to furnish the answers to your reference letter.

1. Transport of Personnel.

The transport of Viet-Nameese Popular Army Units from South to North having been suppressed, the NUNGS being now assembled, and the number of refugees being considerably reduced, the important tonnage of troop ships the U.S. Government has generously placed at the disposal of Indo-China following the "Cease-fire" is no longer required.

On the other hand, French shipping is considered to be sufficient, as of 1 November, to provide transportation not only for the monthly increments of the Expeditionary Corps Units, but also for several thousands refugees per month who might present themselves. (1)

This applies only so long as the influx of Viet-Nameese nationals wishing to leave North Viet-Nam remains at a relatively low level.

It is evident that, should new important but un-anticipated quantities of people present themselves between now and May for emigration, it would become necessary to decide upon new means and resubmit a request for U.S shipping.

In this latter eventuality, I am requesting that American Authorities agree to furnish this aid on a firm basis with the shortest possible delays. If this agreement is reached,

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(1) - If necessary, concurrent with airlift

.../...

there is, then no difficulty entailed in returning as of the present or any future time and at your convenience, the troop ships now in Indo-China.

2. Transport of material and vehicles.

I have decided to expedite from the 1st of November on, and to end as of 31 January 1955, the evacuation of :

- approximately 150,000 tons and 1,300 vehicles from the equipment, from Depots and Services of North Viet-Nam.
- three monthly increments of Units with their organic equipment (15,000 tons and 5,800 vehicles).

In view of the importance I attach to the evacuation of MDAP equipment, I consider it advisable that the four Pocket-Libertys (1) which are now in Indo-China be retained at least until the removal of such MDAP equipment be completed. This must definitely be terminated prior to 31 January 1955.

In fact, the small dimension of these ships, in comparison with normal-sized Liberty vessels, allows us very often to benefit by gaining an additional berth at the landing area, and to conduct loading operations on one more ship.

Concerning LST's, I wish to resubmit my previous request.

I consider it absolutely indispensable to retain in Indo-China up to 31 January 1955 approximately ~~XXXX~~ 10 LST's (ten), to participate in the evacuation of vehicles, most of which originated from MDAP supplies. In addition, in your letter dated 28 September 1954, you failed to mention any firm date for withdrawal of such ships.

Concerning the movement of some 3,000 vehicles, which are to remain in Tonkin between 1 February and 19 May, until the evacuation of the last Expeditionary Corps Troop increment, scheduled for April - May, my Headquarters is conducting a study of this operation's procedures which will be the subject

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(1) - Pentress - Hennequin - Muskingum - Pembina

of new proposals to be submitted to you.

3. Transport of barges.

On the other hand, due to the important amount of lighterage facilities and floating equipment to be evacuated from Tonkin, I am requesting that, beginning 1 February 1955, one American LSD be onhand. The only French ship of this class will not be able alone to handle this cargo within the given time.

/s/ ELY

30 October 1954

I N F O R M A T I O N

Requested by MAAG Letter dated 8 OCT 1954.

(Status as of 15 October 1954)

a) Total passengers.

1. Civilian : number impossible to compute
2. Military : approx. 60,000

Total vehicles.

1. Organic to Military Units : 9,056 ea
2. All others : 1,460 ea

Total cargo.

1. Organic to Military Units : 20,000 tons
2. General (Depots & Services) : 150,000 tons

b) Planned monthly evacuation rates.

	Ground & Naval FF(1)	Air (2)	Total
<u>Vehicles.</u> November 1954 :	1,860	330	2,200
December :	1,899	330	2,230
January 1955 :	2,630	330	2,960
from 1 January to 15 May 1955			3,300 (1) ✓

- (1) - to be transported by LST's  
(2) - to be transported by cargo ships.

Cargo organic to Military Units.

- 5,000 tons, for each month : November, December, January.
- 5,000 tons at the end of the evacuation.

Depots & Services general cargo.

- 50,000 tons monthly during NOV, DEC, JAN.

c) Predicted weekly evacuation rate.

- vehicles : 550 ea in NOV, DEC, JAN
- cargo organic to Military Units : 1,250 tons in NOV, DEC, JAN
- general cargo : 12,500 tons.

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d) Percentage to be evacuated by French shipping.

- general cargo : 5/6ths
- vehicles, by LST's : 2/9ths
- vehicles by cargo ships, 5/5ths.