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What Is National Action?

1. National Action is a joint effort of the government, the army, and the people to build a strong, free, and independent nation.

2. National Action must be a combined government-army program to re-establish peace and order and to win the support of the people in all of Free Vietnam.

II. The Problem: How to initiate and sustain a program of National Action.

III. Assumption: That a program of National Action is necessary to save Free Vietnam from Communist domination.

IV. Facts Bearing on the Problem:

1. Free Vietnam contains at the present time areas under the control of the government, areas under the control of the sects, areas under control of the French Army, areas under the control of the Vietminh, and areas in which government control is being extended through the Vietnamese National Army.

2. In some areas relinquished by the Vietminh the Vietnamese National Army has complete responsibility for re-occupation, in other areas the responsibility and authority is divided between the National Army, the French Army, and the religious sects.

3. There is at present no working organization in existence to coordinate and direct a joint government-army program to re-establish peace and order and win the support of the people.

4. There is at present no working organization in existence for quickly transmitting comprehensive governmental aid and support to a

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THƯNG TÀM LÝ TỌC  
SAO Y  
Bộ Công An

Joint government-army program.

V. Discussion

1. It is urgent that a comprehensive program be developed quickly for the whole of Free Vietnam which will be flexible enough to meet a very great variety of situations, sufficiently detailed in organization to be effective and efficient, and capable of being applied simultaneously to all of Free Vietnam.

2. In order to determine the true efficiency of both the planned organization and operations, a pilot project would provide an economical means for testing the plan.

3. Experience with the pilot project will provide guidance for step by step expansion, until the total area of Free Vietnam is receiving the impact of National Action.

4. The program plan must provide for the coordinated participation of all agencies of the government in its execution.

VI. Recommendations

1. That a plan be evolved and a program mechanism established which will meet the conditions specified in the above discussion.

2. That the program be begun in the specific area of the Long-My District of Soctrang Province for the following reasons:

a. Despite eight years of Vietminh domination, the population of Long-My has responded favorably to one and a half months of Vietnamese National Army occupation.

b. Soctrang Province is occupied solely by National Army troops.

c. The Soctrang Province Chief, the Soctrang Military

3.  
Sector Commander, and the Long-My District Commander are efficient, able, and dynamic leaders.

d. Cooperation is extremely close between these three leaders.

e. Long-My is a critical area in which the government of Free Vietnam must either gain the support of the people or eventually lose it to Communist domination.

1. The military district commander, assisted by a reconnaissance team of technicians (Army engineer, Public Works engineer, Social Action technician, Medical Doctor, and Psychological Warfare Officer), will determine the priority of his needs and what is necessary in the way of material and personnel support to meet these needs.

2. Requests for support from the district commander will be received by the province chief and the military sector commander who will study and approve or disapprove the request.

3. The approved requests will be communicated by Army radio to GHQ, Vietnamese National Army. One action copy will go to a National Action Task Group in the GHQ, one information copy will go to the General Administration of American Economic Aid (AEA), and one information copy will go to the President via the Ministry of National Defense.

4. The National Action Task Group, created at the Deputy Chief of Staff level will determine who can best fulfill the request. If it is the Army the appropriate section of the Army will be ordered to take action. If it is the government, the request will be transmitted to AEA.

5. AEA will attempt to fulfill the request from its own stockpile. If this is not possible AEA and USOM (STEM) will confer, decide, and order delivery of the requested material to the Army.

6. Delivery to the consuming area will be the responsibility of the Army.

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7. A Policy Coordination Group consisting of a representative from the Ministry of Defense, the National Action Task Force, AEA, and the Governor of South (and eventually Central) Vietnam's Office will be created to coordinate policy, be responsible for follow-up inspections using inspection teams, and plan expansion. One representative from USOM and one representative from MAAG will act as liaison with the group.

8. For the detailed duties and responsibilities of each group active in implementing the plan see Attachment "A". For a proposed time schedule see Attachment "B".

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## PILOT PROJECT: SOCTRANG PROVINCE, LONG-MY DISTRICT

## I. Duties of the Reconnaissance Team

- a. Make a comprehensive study in cooperation with the Long-My District Commander, Major Quan, of the material, personnel, and program requirements necessary to meet the basic needs of the Long-My area.
- b. Aid Major Quan in establishing priorities for these requirements.
- c. Discuss with the Soctrang Province Chief and the Soctrang Military Sector Commander, the needs of Soctrang Province as a whole.
- d. Assist the Policy Coordination Group in its planning.

## II. Duties of the Long-My District Commander

- a. Determine requirements and the priority of requirements with the aid of the reconnaissance team.
- b. Program the employment of the required personnel and materials.
- c. Transmit the program and requests to the province headquarters level by Army radio.
- d. Prepare monthly progress reports for province headquarters in addition to regular operational reporting. The receipt of any material or personnel will be reported instantly to province headquarters.

## III. Joint duties of the Soctrang Province Chief and the Soctrang Military Sector Commander.

- a. All material and personnel requests with supporting program details from the District Commander will be studied, coordinated, and

## TIME SCHEDULE FOR PILOT PROJECT

DeadlinesAction

19 November	Reconnaissance team selected by this date.
22 November	Soctrang alerted, reconnaissance team departs by this date.
25 November	First radio request arrives Army GHQ by this date.
28 November	Request fulfilled by delivery to Long-My not later than this date.
10 December	All major needs, present and projected, of Long-My District to be either fulfilled or planned to be fulfilled by this date.
1 January	All major needs, present and projected, of Soctrang Province to be either fulfilled or planned to be fulfilled by this date. Future needs of Bac Lieu Province planned by this date.

NOTE: The inclusion of the provinces of Quang Nam and Quand Ngai and the Plaine des Joncs area under the program will be studied beginning 1 December.

signed off on by the province chief and the military sector commander before being transmitted by Army radio to GHQ, Vietnamese National Army.

b. Coordinate and plan the extension of support to the whole of Soctrang Province and Bac Lieu Province.

c. Coordinate program support at the provincial level to insure delivery of personnel and material to the District level.

d. Perform constant inspections to determine progress and increase efficiency.

e. Prepare joint monthly progress reports on all going programs in addition to regular operational reporting. The receipt of any material or personnel will be reported instantly to the National Action Task Group.

#### IV. Duties of the National Action Task Group, Vietnamese National Army

a. Receive requests with supporting program details from the Sector headquarters level, establish priorities, and determine who can fulfill the request.

b. Request either the appropriate Army section to take action or AEA.

c. With the aid of a suspense filing system, conduct continuous follow-ups on all requests.

d. Coordinate the pick-up, transportation, and delivery of all material and personnel to the Sector headquarters level.

e. Receive and compile all operational reporting from the provincial level including the monthly progress report.

f. Transmit the monthly progress report to the Policy Coordination

Group with any recommendations for policy changes attached.

8.

g. Create plans and programs, coordinate plans and programs with other Army sections, and submit the plans and programs to the Policy Coordination Group for approval and recommendations.

V. Duties of AEA

- a. Receive and study requests from the National Action Task Group.
- b. Either fulfill the request from the AEA stockpile or confer, decide, and order delivery of the requested material in conjunction with USOM.
- c. Keep the National Action Task Group constantly informed on the disposition of all requests.
- d. Maintain a stockpile of material based on projected requirements from the provincial level.
- e. Carry on close and continuous liaisons with USOM and the Army. In addition carry on liaison with other government ministries in support of provincial programs.

VI. Duties of the Policy Coordination Group

- a. Conduct weekly meetings.
- b. Select the members of any reconnaissance groups.
- c. Study monthly progress reports, project proposals, and plans and recommend policy, procedural, and organizational changes as well as project expansion.
- d. Form joint civilian-military inspection teams to inspect constantly the progress of the program in the field.
- e. Prepare a monthly progress report for the President.