

S E C R E T  
EYES ONLY

July 15, 1963

Brigadier General Richard G. Stilwell  
J-3  
Military Assistance Command Vietnam  
137 Pasteur  
Saigon, Vietnam

Dear Dick:

I am sure that you are even more concerned than I am about the actions of some ARVN units which cannot but create support for the VC. One of these units is the 9th Division. I believe you may have already received reports about this unit's recent actions in the Binh Dinh - Pleiku border area, where a regiment came out some 10 days ago reporting that they had burned 70 (or 72) Bahnar villages, killed all the livestock, etc. As you may know, this was in the same area where a special development team was seeking to make contact with these tribesmen.

Also attached are two recent reports from members of my staff concerning other practices of elements of the 9th Division, which are, without any doubt, seriously detracting from the success of the pacification effort in Phu Yen province and Binh Dinh.

The senior advisor, Colonel Anita, is properly concerned about these activities, but seems powerless to prevent them. I am somewhat at a loss as to how to proceed as I do not wish to convey the impression of sharpshooting at the military effort here. Perhaps on your side, a dossier could be prepared and presented to General Harkins as a basis for strong top-level action. I will be glad to assist in any way.

I know that you are even more aware than I of the deleterious effect of this type of action on effective counter-insurgency. I believe that corrective action should properly be handled through military channels, if possible, rather than through the Trueheart Committee, which is the reason I am bringing this to you.

Sincerely,

Rufus C. Phillips  
Assistant Director for Rural Affairs

2 Enclosures:  
Memo from BFraleigh  
Memo from RBurns

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Downgraded at 1000 hours, 10/1/80  
Declassified after 10 years