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A CONCEPT OF PACIFICATION

1. Prime Minister Ky's Directive on Rural Reconstruction Policy of 11 December 1965 (Attachment A) sets forth the following Vietnamese concept of rural construction or pacification.

a. The military, the administrative officials and the people must unite to achieve pacification. The most decisive factor is the people. The main mission of the GVN is to help and to motivate the people. Pacification is, "of the people, beneficial to the people and initiated by the people."

b. Pacification policy and implementation must respond to the aspirations of the people.

c. Pacification will only succeed when democratic and effective local government has completely replaced the VC infrastructure.

2. This Directive and the "Temporary Directions Regarding the Organization and Administration of Rural Construction Cadres" (Attachment B), distributed by the Ministry of Rural Construction on 21 December 1965 further establish that:

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a Primary responsibility for the execution of
the pacification concept previously outlined is assigned to specially selected and trained "Rural Construction Cadre Groups" to be placed under the command of the District Chiefs.

b. The Army and the local authorities have the responsibility to assist in this effort with the people, which is to achieve the restoration of order, the provision of security, and to assure development in the social, economic, and political fields.

c. District Rural Construction Committees, Province Committees, Division Tactical Area Committees, Corps Tactical Zone Committees and the Central Committee are created to coordinate and direct the pacification effort, which is to be implemented on a province-by-province basis. Provinces plans are approved by Divisions, Corps and the Central Committee. Based on approved plans, the Divisions are to provide military support to the Provinces, while administrative and logistical support will be supplied directly from the Central Committee.

d. Pacification is to proceed in a gradual and continuous fashion from safe to unsafe areas.

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3. This concept incorporates the idea that "the basic object... (of pacification)" is to attach the rural population to its local authorities, and to inculcate the trait of their being mutually responsive, one to the other", and ^{that} this should be the primary thrust of the pacification effort.

4. To be realistic, the American concept of pacification must take into account the existing political reality in Vietnam, salient features of which are the weakness of the non-Communist social and political fabric and the lack of a national, as well as local political base, for the Government. Hence, in order to knit together the population and the government at the lowest level, the government at the highest level must be fully and continuously committed and involved in this task. It must carry out and define its political causes and objectives, of which pacification is an integral part, and it must build, and allow the people to build, instruments and institutions which will supply the necessary political footing. With and only with this political footing or base, will come sufficient motivation and spirit within the government, as well as from the people, to make pacification possible and permanent.