



NOV 20 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR : The Ambassador

FROM : Robert H. Baylun, SAID Associate Director of  
Economic Planning and Policy and Embassy  
Counselor of Economic Affairs

SUBJECT : Proposed Herbicide Missions - Quang Duc and Phu  
Ben Provinces

1. After considerable soul-searching and serious consideration, I feel compelled to recommend in both of the proposals for crop destruction in Quang Duc and Phu Ben Provinces.

2. Final authority must remain with the 303 Committee. The basic issue involves control over herbicide operations. Both proposals ask for blanket authority to destroy crops in large portions of the two provinces, including about 40 percent of Quang Duc and 30 percent of Phu Ben. They would authorize local authorities to decide on specific targets as long as one year in the future, without further concurrence by the 303 Committee. In that time, the political, military, economic, psychological and pacification situation in the two provinces and in Vietnam as a whole could change radically. The factors which prompted the committee to authorize crop destruction originally may no longer exist when the actual herbicide operations are to take place. Although there may be no friendly crops, villages or pacification programs today, no one can be certain that the situation will be even a few months from now. In our view, if the committee occurred in these two proposals, it would in effect be abdication of its responsibility for making policy recommendations concerning crop destruction activity. We believe that final authority over crop destruction activity must remain within the 303 Committee.

3. The current transitional situation makes urgent committee review even more important. The "area clearance" provisions of the Herbicide Policy Review do appear to support the idea of wide grants of authority for crop destruction programs. Nevertheless, whatever may have been the merits of the area clearance policy when first adopted, the entire

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Memorandum for the Ambassador - page 2

political, economic and military outlook has in the meantime changed drastically. The situation in Vietnam in November 1970 could in turn be greatly different from that of today. Especially in this period of flux in all aspects of the war in Vietnam and of our Vietnam policy, it is essential that decisions over herbicide projects continue to be made by the 203 Committee, so that all relevant political, military and economic considerations will be taken into account.

4. Effectiveness of crop destruction activity is irrelevant to issue of operational control. The necessity and usefulness of crop destruction activity in general is not such as to call for overriding of the committee's authority. Although crop destruction operations may have had some success, we suspect their effectiveness in hampering enemy military operations may have been exaggerated. The Report of the Herbicide Policy Review Committee, itself, on page 17 pointed out, "Herbicide crop destruction is only one aspect of the efforts to deny foodstuffs to the VC/NVA. The enemy relies on commercial purchases, imports, taxation, requisition and confiscation for some 90 percent of his food requirements". Advocates of these crop destruction proposals have cited intelligence reports of starving VC/NVA defectors. There can be many causes of this condition, and there is no convincing evidence of any direct, or even indirect, relationship between undernourished enemy soldiers and crop destruction activity. In any case, this subject is not immediately relevant to the current issue of operational control over herbicide missions.

5. Adverse effects of herbicides in wider context. Indeed, the effectiveness of crop destruction activity may well be counterbalanced by its adverse effects. Crop destruction from the air is an inherently indiscriminate weapon. There are Montagnard tribes scattered all over the areas in question. Although some of the food to be destroyed is no doubt being grown for NVA troops, some is being eaten by people who are quite helplessly in enemy territory. In addition, our knowledge of the effects of herbicides on human health is far from adequate. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare reported that unrestricted use of pesticides, at least, could have "disastrous effects". It declared also that there is a "tremendous need for ecological research on a large scale".

6. Proposed reduction in area appreciated, but question of control remains. The original Phu Bon proposal has not been changed, but for Quang Duc, the area proposed for blanket authority for crop destruction

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has been reduced in a new submission from 60 percent to 40 percent of the province. This quantitative change, however, does not alter the basic question, which remains one of how control shall be exercised over a sensitive matter involving political, economic and ecological as well as military implications.

7. We wish to emphasize that we believe that the committee should be prepared to consider and act promptly on specific target requests in these provinces on their individual merits.

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WALK-TALK MESSAGE

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			
SECRET			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
TYPE TRANSMISSION		TO	INFO
ELECTRICAL		X	X
AIR MAIL			
COURIER			
PRECEDENCE			

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ACTION TO:	PRIORITY
INFO:	PRIORITY

DTG 231000Z Jan 67

COC ROUTING STAMP	
ACT. INFO	ACT. DISPENSE
COC1	AFDP
COC2	AG
COC3	AMEMB
COC4	CBPAC
COC5	CH
COC6	
COC7	
COC8	
REMARKS	

C/S 3-8	BJS	1
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J3 12	J4	
J5	J6	
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	OICC	
	PM	
	SJA	
	SOG	
COC 1-2	SURG	
COMB STUDIES	TMA	
COMPT	TNG	
DOD SPEC REP	USAID	
FMMAO	USARV	
HC	1FFVNO	
IG	11 FFVNO	
JRATA	111 MAFLNO	
JUSPAO	5TH SF LMC	
MACDC	7TH AF	16-23
MACON		
MACPD		

FROM: COMUSMACV  
 TO: CINCPAC RUHLHQ  
 INFO: AMEMB, VIENTIANE RUMBSL  
 CINCUSARPAC RUHLHS

SECRET 02727 From MACCOCT.

SUBJ: Use of Riot Control Agent CS (U)  
 REF: COMUSMACV MSG DTG 02726 230457Z JAN 67 (S)  
 1. (S) Bulk agent CS has been employed successfully in SVN

to contaminate areas and create temporary obstacles. The use of CS appears advisable in a contamination role to extend the denial period of selected interdiction points in Laos.

2. (S) Tests at Eglin Air Force Base utilizing bulk CS delivered in napalm tanks have contaminated areas for periods of up to 72 hours. This technique employed in the road denial program in Laos should extend the time required to repair choke points and develop profitable targets.

3. (S) Ambassador Sullivan's approval has been requested for the use of CS in those areas of Laos approved for air operations. (See REFERENCE.)

4. (S) Request CINCPAC approval to conduct air operations in Laos utilizing riot control agent CS.

D	TYPED NAME TITLE PHONE AND OFFICE SYMBOL
R	JOHN A. CALLAHAN
A	LTC, GS
F	Cal Opns Officer
T	40122/MACCOCT
E	
R	

R	SIGNATURE
E	<i>A. M. Hendry, Jr.</i>
L	TYPED NAME AND TITLE
E	A. M. HENDRY, JR., Brigadier
A	General, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff
S	

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
SECRET

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NO OF PAGES 2

COPY NO. 14

ORIGINAL ARCHIVES

1931

MACY JOINT MESSAGE FORM  
CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

LOCAL DATE, BUT

3. (U) Riot control agents produce temporary irritating or disabling physiological effects when in contact with the eyes or when inhaled. Riot control agents used in field concentrations do not permanently injure personnel. Complete recovery from agent effects is spontaneous when the individual moves to a clear atmosphere.

4. (S) Request your approval to employ agent CS in areas of Laos approved for air operations.

GP-4

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	OFFICE SYMBOL	PAGE	NR. OF
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NAVY JOINT MESSAGEFORM  
 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
**SECRET LINDIS**

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI <b>M</b>	SINGLE
TYPE TRANSMISSION	TO	INFO	
ELECTRICAL	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
AIR MAIL			
COURIER			
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION TO: <b>PRIORITY</b>			
INFO: <b>PRIORITY</b>			

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LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

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ACTIV		NAG	
AFGP		NAVFORV	

FROM: COMUSMACV  
 TO: NMCC /RUEPJS  
 INFO: CINCPAC /RUHLHQ  
 CINCUSARPAC /RUHLHS  
 CINCPACAF //RUHLKM  
 CMDR, 7TH AF /RUMSBJ  
 AMEMB, VIENTIANE /RUMBSL

ACT	INFO	SUSPENSE
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REMARKS		

AG	OICC
AMEMB	PM
CBPAC	SJA
CH	SOG
COC	SURG
<b>A</b>	<b>(2)</b>

~~SECRET~~ LINDIS 04552 From MACCOCT.

USARPAC for GPOP-CM 7th AF for TACFWH

SUBJ: Herbicide Report (U)

1. (S) During the week ending 4 Feb 67, the following defoliation missions were flown in Laos with C-123 aircraft:

31 Jan 3 sorties 450 ha XD320330-XD323335 F32 Acft 618 - 1  
 Acft 611 - X

X Acft 611 lost to ground fire. 5 KIA.

2. (S) During the period no crop destruction missions were flown in Laos with C-123 aircraft.

GP-4

*00000-5008-67*

DRAFT  
 TYPED NAME TITLE PHONE AND OFFICE SYMBOL  
**PHILIP L. BOSTER**  
 Major, GS  
 Col Opns Officer  
 40122/MACCOCT

RELEASE AS R  
 SIGNATURE  
*J. R. Chaisson*  
 TYPED NAME AND TITLE  
**J. R. CHAISSON, BG, USMC**  
 Director COC

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**SECRET LINDIS**

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PAGE NO. 1  
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**MACV JOINT MESSAGEFORM**

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~~SECRET~~ **LINDIS**

TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
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TYPE TRANSMISSION		TO	INFO
ELECTRICAL		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
AIR MAIL			<b>F</b>
COURIER			

PRECEDENCE

ACTION TO: **PRIORITY**

INFO: **PRIORITY**

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION		
C/S	3-8	SJS
	<b>X</b>	
J1		J2
		<b>X</b>
J3		J4
	<b>X</b>	
J5		J6
ACTIV		NAG
AFGP		NAVFORV
AG		OICC
AMEMB		12-4 PM
	<b>X</b>	
CBPAC		SJA
CH		SOG
COC		SURG
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COMB		TMA
STUDIES		
COMPT		TNG
DOD SPEC		USAID
REP		
FMMAO		USARV
HC		1FFV LNO
IG		11 FFV LNO
JRATA		111 MAFLNO
JUSPAO		5TH SF LNO
MACDC		7TH AF
MACON		
MACPD		

*6 DC*  
*032*  
*0235 DR*  
*DR 0240*

**DTG** *010215Z FEB 67*

FROM: COMUSMACV

TO: NMCC *RUEPJS*

INFO: CINCPAC *RUHLHQ*

CINCUSARPAC *RUHLHS*

CINCPACAF *RUHLKM*

COMR, 7TH AF *RUMSBT*

AMEMB, VIENTIANE *RUMBSL*

COC ROUTING STAMP

ACT	INFO	SUSP	DISC
CCC			
CCC1			
CCC2			
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CCC8			
CCC9			
RELEAS			

~~SECRET~~ **LINDIS 03806** From MACCOCT.

USARPAC for GPOP-CM 7th AF for TACFWH

SUBJ: Herbicide Report (U)

1. (S) During the week ending 28 Jan 67, the following defoliation missions were flown in Laos with C-123 aircraft:

24 Jan	2 sorties	300 ha	XD8003-YC0697	F-37	3 hits
25 Jan	2 sorties	201 ha	XD7303-XD7300	F-33	11 hits
			YC0098-YC0298	F-23	
27 Jan	2 sorties	300 ha	YD1803-YD0901	F-34	11 hits
			YD1201-YC0878	F-23	
28 Jan	3 sorties	450 ha	YC0795-YD0901	F-23	29 hits
			<i>COC-004248-67</i> YD1603-YD1903	F-34	

TYPED NAME TITLE PHONE AND OFFICE SYMBOL  
**PHILIP L. BOSTER**  
 Major, GS  
 Cml Opns Officer  
 40122/MACCOCT

SIGNATURE  
*Philip L. Boster*  
 TYPED NAME AND TITLE  
**PHILIP L. BOSTER, DGen, USMC**

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OF THE SEC ARMY BY TAG  
PER 0903817

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SAA  
AA

JMD  
FROM

File No: 1620 LT.  
Dated 25th September, 1968

(1) AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH

Rec'd 27th September, 1968  
1120 LT.

587. RESTRICTED.

Addressed Washington 517, repeated Saigon 587, Canberra 1204,  
Bangkok 487.

Cambodian Border Incidents.

AKP today 25 September, under heading "Damage caused to  
the Sugar Plantation at Korot by the spraying of American  
Defoliant" quotes report by head of National Sugar Company  
(Seonassure) to effect that "60 percent of the cane had  
yellowed leaves" which were green a month ago, and that  
agriculture Ministry Laboratory had confirmed that this  
was caused by defoliant.

MIMOT

27th September, 1968

*Sihanouk  
mentions this  
in press speech  
Sept 29 according  
to FBIS Bangkok  
report. G*

*Ando-Ume place name  
NIS Gazetteer*

TTT

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O 050637Z MAR 67 ZFF-1  
FM CG I FFORCEV NHA RVN  
TO COMUSMACV SGN VN

SEA 05  
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JO MAR

A-COC 1-2  
X-CIS 3-8  
X-NIS 9  
X-J2 10  
X-C11B 11  
X-J3 12

BT

SECRET A0363 FM AVFA-CM

PERSONAL-FROM LTC LARSEN TO GEN WESTMORELAND

SUBJECT: EMPLOYMENT OF RIOT CONTROL AGENT (RCA) (U)

1. (S) GENERAL PEERS DESIRES TO EMPLOY DRUMS OF CS ON BUNKERS AND EMPLACEMENTS IN RVN ALONG THE VIETNAMESE-CAMBODIAN BORDER. BECAUSE OF THE PREVAILING WIND DIRECTION, DETECTABLE QUANTITIES OF AGENT MAY BE CARRIED ACROSS THE BORDER BY DOWNWINDING DRIFT.

2. (S) I CONCUR IN THE PROPOSED METHOD OF EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, REQUEST MACV POSITION ON THE USE OF RCA WHERE THE AGENT CLOUD MAY DRIFT INTO CAMBODIA. GP-4

COC ROUTING STAMP

BT

	ACT	INFO	SUSPENSE
COC			
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VV 011646V KAG143  
FM BUENOS AIRES

FM RUHLRO 2329 0490158

ZNY SSSSS

R 130215Z FEB 67

FM CINC PAC

TO RUMC H/COMUSMACV

INFO RUEHBS/JCS

RUEHBS/AMEMB VIENTIANE

RUMD USA INCOMUSMACV

BT

SECRET

OPERATIONS IN LAOS (C)

A. COMUSMACV MACCOCT 08127/231000Z JAN 67 PASEP

B. AMEMB VIENTIANE 8327011002Z FEB YU NOTAL= COC

C. AMEMB VIENTIANE 5003/160732Z FEB 67

1. REF A REQUESTS APPROVAL TO CONDUCT AIR OPERATIONS IN LAOS UTILIZING RIOT CONTROL AGENT CS. BREF B CONTAINS REASONS WHY PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED.

2. REF C REAFFIRMS NON-CONCURRENCE IN AS LIGHT STRIKE CHARLIE FIGHT ONE.

3. RUMC VIEW VALID REASONS SET FORTH IN REFS B AND C, USE OF RIOT CONTROL AGENT AND CONDUCT OF ASG LIGHT STRIKE CHARLIE FIGHT ONE NOT APPROVED AT THIS TIME. CP-3.

BT

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*18 0216*

COC ROUTING SLIP		
	ACT INFO	SUBPENSE
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REMARKS		

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*P. COC 1-2  
C/S 3-5  
RUST 6  
J2 10  
CHG 11  
RUMC MB 12-14  
745 15-20*

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