

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY ORDER
OF THE SEC ARMY BY TAG
PER 040381/7

FACT SHEET

action
736-69

SUBJECT: Herbicides for SEA (U)

BACKGROUND

1. In December 1966, CINCPAC requested that DOD take extraordinary action to obtain quantities of ORANGE herbicide requested by MACV. In February 1967, the Secretary of Defense directed the Army to prepare production facilities to produce ORANGE. Also the entire commercial production of ORANGE was diverted from domestic use to military requirements in SEA. MACV stated that ORANGE was the preferred type herbicides because of its rapid reaction and it permitted greater flexibility of operations. Quantities of WHITE readily available from commercial sources were substituted for shortage of ORANGE. BLUE was also available in desired quantities from commercial sources.

2. The target areas to be sprayed far exceeded the capability of available equipment to dispense the herbicides. Therefore, the forecast of requirements was and still is based on the capability of spray equipment. Approximately 87 percent of overall herbicide is sprayed by UC-123 aircraft.

3. The forecast requirements has consistently been overstated. (See the attachment). This has been caused primarily by the UC-123 aircraft flying less sorties than forecasted. As a result of the overstatement of requirements, excess quantities have been purchased, particularly ORANGE. At the present, MACV forecast rate for ORANGE (281,900 gal p/mo) there is approximately 18 months supply on hand in the system. In addition, \$19 million has been committed for the completion of an ORANGE production facility at Weldon Springs, Missouri plus \$9 million for raw materials to support the Weldon Springs plant.

CURRENT STATUS

4. The revised MACV herbicide forecasts made in July and November 1968 has decreased the requirement for ORANGE and increased the requirement for WHITE. The commercial price for ORANGE is \$7.10 p/gal and \$6.44 p/gal for WHITE.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED BY ORDER
OF THE SEC ARMY BY TAG
PER 040381/7

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

When the Weldon Springs plant starts production in the fall of 1969 the cost for ORANGE will be approximately \$5.50 p/gal.

5. Although MACV revised the forecast requirement in November 1968, the quantity of ORANGE being dispensed is still less than forecast and the quantity of WHITE being dispensed is greater than forecast.

PROBLEM AREA

6. In view of the large inventory on hand, the huge investment in production capability and the future low cost of ORANGE, it is imperative from an economy point of view that ORANGE be used to the maximum extent possible and that WHITE be used only when there is a compelling operational requirement. MACV requirements have been and will continue to be supported to the maximum extent possible. However, the MACV staff computing requirements need to be more accurate in their computations and project their requirements into the future and realize the dollar impact caused by changes in requirements.

Prepared by: COL H.F. Greenhow, USAF
Materiel Division, J-4
Extension 73397

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~