

Special file

July 25, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJ: Report of Meeting with General La, Director
General of Police and Security Services, 10 A.M.,
July 25, 1958, at Camp des Mares.

PRESENT: General La, Lt. Luan, Lt. Muoi, Messrs. Ryan,
Rundlett and Manopoli.

The following items contained on both the agendas of MSUG
and General La were discussed.

Item 1 (on both agendas) concerned utilization of counterpart piaster funds for the construction of two communications buildings and a transmitter station and a receiving station. It was agreed that the sum of 1,200,000 piasters would be allocated for the construction of a Saigon Municipal Police communications center, the sum of 1,800,000 piasters for the construction of a VBI communications center at Camp des Mares, and 500,000 piasters each for the transmitter and receiving stations. It was further agreed that the total amount of 4,200,000 piasters would be allocated for these buildings and stations with any variation of individual costs falling within this total amount. General La requested that Mr. Rundlett submit as soon as possible detailed plans for these four buildings.

Item 2 (Item 6 on General La's agenda). The question of the employment by MSUG of two Vietnamese radio technicians was submitted to the General. He was advised that due to the fact that they have received US Embassy clearance and clearance from the Directorate of the South Vietnam Region of the VBI, they had been so employed. General La stated that in view of information he had received that Viet Cong were attempting to infiltrate the communications field in Vietnam, he would not at this moment give his complete approval. He advised that a personal investigation of these two subjects would be made by his agents and in the interim that they be employed at MSUG

SUBJ: Meeting with General La

Page 2

July 25, 1958

for the formulation of plans and programs and not be taken by Mr. Rundlett to any police installations in Vietnam. The General further advised that he will notify MSUG upon the completion of his loyalty investigation.

Item 3. The General was advised that Lt. Muoi and Mr. Rundlett have examined the bids for supplying radio equipment to the Police and they have mutually agreed that Motorola was the only bidder quoting on all items and meeting all specifications. It was requested that the General submit a letter to Mr. Vu-Van-Thai, Director of FAA, recommending that an aggregate award be made for Motorola equipment. General La advised that he did not feel that such a letter should emanate from his office, but would instruct Lt. Muoi to verbally and personally advise Mr. Bui-Van-Loc, Chief of the Central Purchasing Authority, GVN, concerning his thoughts on this matter.

Item 4. General La was advised that Lt. Muoi and Mr. Rundlett had examined numerous surplus items of communications equipment at Hang Tuong Tai Salvage Depot. Mr. Rundlett suggested that Lt. Muoi select from this surplus equipment what is needed and can be put in good repair for temporary use awaiting receipt of the communications equipment presently on order. The General instructed Lt. Muoi to make this survey and select suitable communications equipment available at this depot.

Item 5. General La raised the question of the acquisition of battery chargers that are in the hands of the Ministry of Information and Health. He was advised that Mr. Rundlett will check through USOM in an attempt to secure the release of these 20 battery chargers for use by his organization.

Item 6 (Items 4 and 5 on General La's agenda and Item 10 on the MSUG agenda). This concerned the purchase of audio visual aids for the various schools maintained by the Surete. General La requested that the sum of 75,000\$ be added to the previous offer of 10,000\$ to establish a credit for the purchase of audio visual equipment. He suggested that this 75,000\$ be deducted from the 975,000\$ added to the 1958 subproject agreement from recovered funds offered by USOM. He was advised by Mr. Ryan that this sum of 975,000\$ was specifically assigned to the program to more rapidly implement the communications phase of the civil police administration program. The agenda of General La also included the amount of 100,000 piasters from the counterpart fund for some of this audio visual equipment for the National

SUBJ: Meeting with General La
Page 3
July 25, 1958

Police Academy. Submitted with his agenda was a list of all material needed to implement his audio visual program. A cursory examination of this list indicated that the sum of 10,000\$ previously offered would be adequate to cover the items requested. A copy of this list was given to Mr. Rundlett who will secure prices for submission at the next weekly meeting. Lt. Luan was instructed by General La to furnish Mr. Rundlett by Monday morning, July 28, with a list of audio visual equipment required for the NPA.

7. Item #2 on the VBI agenda concerned the construction of the Archives Building, original priority granted in the amount of 4,800,000 piasters for this work. General La informed us that the question of the placement of the building on the present Camp des Mares location indicates that there is insufficient land to construct this building and that the presence of the new prison building offers a serious inconvenience to the location of this building. General La advised that his committee will submit plans to him as to the location of this building and a meeting with this committee will be held with Messrs. Ryan and Manopoli on August 4 to discuss this situation.

8. Item #3 on the VBI agenda and Item #8 on the MSUG agenda raised the question of the distribution of 1957 material aid vis-a-vis the Municipal Police and the Surete. General La stated that he will shortly have a meeting with the regional chiefs of the Surete and of various Municipal Police departments to discuss this matter and will advise us at the earliest opportunity.

9. Item #8 on the VBI agenda and Item #16 on the MSUG agenda concerned a request for the General's approval of field survey trips to be made by Messrs. Kimball and Rumpf. At first General La strenuously objected to the necessity of these field trips. Mr. Ryan pointed out to him that they were entirely necessary for the formulation of MSUG policy as to the types and quantities of material aid to be given to the Police Services of GVN. It was suggested to General La that a member of his staff accompany MSUG police advisors on these trips. General La then gave his approval for these field trips and the member of his staff to accompany the MSUG police advisors will contact Mr. Kimball early next week.

10. Item #4 on the MSUG agenda concerned the implementation of plans for the construction of a Municipal Police pistol range. General La advised that he has received verbal approval from

SUBJ: Meeting with General La

Page 4

July 25, 1958

ARVN for the release of a large pistol and rifle range located south of the racetrack in Saigon and arrangements are nearly completed for the securing of a pistol range located on Rue Richaud. The Director General pointed out that with the acquisition of these two ranges which will be available to both the Municipal Police and Surete personnel, there was no reason for the construction of a special Municipal Police pistol range. He further suggested that the remaining monies available in the counterpart piaster fund could be used to repair and modernize these two pistol ranges when they are acquired.

11. General La was advised that with the pending receipt of approximately 400 pieces of motor equipment, he should increase the tempo of driver training for both VBI and Municipal Police officers. He advised that this program will be increased and that a member of his staff will contact Mr. J. Franklin of MSUG for assistance in this matter.

12. General La was requested to furnish a copy of the reorganization report for the Surete and Police Services that he had already submitted to the Minister of the Interior. General La advised that the submission of this report to Mr. Trinh, Minister of the Interior, was based on a confidential request from the Minister. He felt that this information should be solicited from the Minister of the Interior.

13. After an inspection of the progress of the personnel inventory project in the administrative section of the VBI on July 21 by Mr. Ryan and Mr. Manopoli, it was recommended to the General that a committee be established to further implement this project to study the forms to be used and the manner in which MSUG police advisors could be of assistance. General La advised that the administrative section will select such a committee and requested that Messrs. Ryan and Manopoli be part of such a committee and that dates will be selected for meetings as a group to study this problem.

14. The General's recommendations were solicited relative to a letter forwarded to him by Mr. Hoyt concerning the purchase of 1958 material aid. The General stated that the submitted recommendations met with his approval and he requested that we implement the PIO/Cs as soon as possible.

15. In response to a request, General La will forward to Mr. Hoyt an album of the photographs taken at the opening of the National Police Academy on May 24.

SUBJ: Meeting with General La

Page 5

July 25, 1958

16. It was suggested to General La that he issue an invitation to the Ambassador, Mr. Barrows and Dr. Smuckler to visit Camp des Mares so that he might brief them on his activities and plans and see for themselves the use to which counterpart funds have been put in the implementation of MSUG advice. The General advised that he would be only too happy to do so but requested that we hold off setting any firm date for another month while additional work was being performed in the Identification Bureau and in the selection of the location of the Archives Building.

17. General La was advised that we would not be able to process the fourth leadership participant in the group scheduled to depart *Sept 16*. The General was requested to address a letter to Mr. Hoyt asking for an additional group of three or four leadership participants to leave the latter part of 1958. Further discussions on this matter will await the receipt of such a letter by Mr. Hoyt.

18. Mr. Ryan thanked the General for the fine reception given for Mr. Chamberlin by himself and his staff both at Camp des Mares and at Tan-Son-Nhut Airport prior to his leaving. General La advised that he would supply photographs of both of these occasions.

19. Lt. Luan was requested to supply receipts for the shotguns, traps, clay pigeons and ammunition assigned to the VBI and the National Police Academy. Such receipt should be forthcoming next week.

20. General La was advised that the tentative 1959 direct aid program for the Police Services is in the process of formulation and that we would require information concerning the proposed VBI budget and how much of this budget would be used to support the implementation of this project. The General advised that at a meeting with the Director of the Budget on July 18, he had requested the sum of 25,000,000 piasters as the GVN contribution for the support of the 1959 civil police program. He further stated that the Director of the Budget and the FAA were requested to ask for a like amount in counterpart piaster funds from USOM.

21. General La's attention was called to the matter of the extension of the police leaders trip in the amount of 5 days. This was the subject matter of a letter addressed to the General by Mr. Hoyt on July 16 and an answer from the General to Mr. Hoyt by letter dated July 24, 1958. In answer to General La's request

SUBJ: Meeting with General La
Page 6
July 25, 1958

that the police leaders time in the US be cut 5 days in order to increase the amount of time available in England to a total of 10 days, it was agreed that the final decision in this matter should be made following Mr. Hoyt's return to Saigon on Monday, July 28, 1958.

JFM/her

Copy to: Dr. Smuckler ✓
Mr. Hoyt
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Rundlett
Mr. Franklin
Mr. Kimball
Mr. Newman