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Ch. VIII

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Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

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Date: 24 JAN 29 1972 Authority: EO 13526

26 April 1972

Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: MEMORANDUM FOR: M-Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JAN 24 2012

SUBJECT: US and RVNAF Augmentations

During the past few months we have accomplished substantial augmentations of RVNAF and US forces in Southeast Asia. This has occurred despite the continuing redeployments of US troops from South Vietnam. Of special note on the RVNAF side was the major added build-up in mid-to-late 1971 of their equipment and supplies. On the US side, since January 1972, we have (a) increased Air Force and Marine Corps tactical air by more than 125 aircraft; (b) increased B-52s and tanker support by 110 aircraft; (c) added to Navy tactical air by 225 aircraft; and (d) augmented Navy surface support by more than 35 ships.

The augmentations listed above have been major in scope and, from all reports, in effectiveness. The operational and political benefits of the augmentations are not in dispute.

The reality of resource limitations and costs (opportunity as well as financial) remains. We cannot afford to be unmindful of that reality. It is incumbent upon us -- especially now that we have added major new measures of capability to both RVNAF and US forces -- to weigh carefully the incremental benefit of further augmentations versus the incremental costs. I want to be sure that we are prepared to look at both the operational benefits and the incremental costs of any further augmentations which might be considered.

In order to be prepared to look at the impact of any future actions, it is necessary that we assess fully and completely the impact of those augmentations actions taken so far. I would like for you and the Chiefs to make such an assessment. Specifically, I would like for you to address, among any other points you consider important, the following:

- Assumptions - Assume current activity rates for both RVNAF and US forces. Also, assume optional augmented deployments of US forces for
  - 30 days
  - 60 days
  - 90 days
  - 179 days (full TDY period)

Assume also that no budget supplements will be available.

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- . Budget - What are the impacts of the activities assumed above on
  - the FY 72 budget, by amount, and funding source?
  - the FY 73 budget, by amount, and funding source?
 (Include the opportunity costs, i.e., those functions and actions which cannot be accomplished by virtue of the SEA activities.)
- . Logistics - What will be the logistics impacts in terms of
  - ordnance inventories, consumption, and production?
  - other major equipment and supply items needed to support RVNAF and US units deployed?
  - the replacement of attrition aircraft and other major equipment items?
  - the impact on US retrograde actions?
- . Manpower - What will be the US manpower impact in terms of
  - flight and gun crews' ability to perform?
  - maintenance and support elements?
  - the overall ability to meet the current operational requirements and contingencies?
  - movement towards an All Volunteer Force?
- . Operational Flexibility - What will be the operational impact in terms of our ability to
  - meet a secondary NVA surge later in CY 1972?
  - meet another crisis throughout the world during the May-December period?

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I would appreciate a written response to the issues outlined above. I would also like to discuss these issues at our regularly-scheduled meeting next Monday afternoon, 1 May. Furthermore, as stated earlier, I shall want to see specific analyses of incremental benefits and costs on any further augmentation proposals.

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