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MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES: 20

TO: RICHARD HELMS
FROM: DIRECTOR
DATE: 13 SEPT. 1967

FILE RID
 INDEX
 NO INDEX
 FILE IN CS FILE NO.

SECRET

ROUTING		
1	<i>JW</i>	5
2		6
3		7
4		8

DISSEM BY 15 PER #

DESTROY RETURN TO BRANCH

FROM: DIRECTOR

INFO: DCI INFO: VR FILE RID COPY DDCI, EX/DIR, DDP, ADDP, CS/RF,

CSDO, C/FE8, C/SAVA, D/PPB, O/C

SECRET

SEP 13 15 14 'Z

CITE DIRECTOR

35095

TO IMMEDIATE SAIGON

INFO [Redacted]

RYBAT

(*Reported ACOS conversation with Sen. Symington.)

RE [Redacted] 1703 (IN-50816) *

FOR SENATOR SYMINGTON FROM MR. HELMS

"1. REGRET YOUR CONCERN OVER JOHN HART'S ABSENCE DURING YOUR VISIT TO SAIGON. HE HAD A MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL CONTACT TO MAKE IN LONDON THIS WEEK, AN ARRANGEMENT MADE WELL BEFORE WE KNEW YOU WERE VISITING SAIGON. IN ANY EVENT, AM SURE YOU WILL FIND LOU LAPHAM HIGHLY QUALIFIED TO HANDLE WITH YOU WHATEVER MATTERS YOU CARE TO DISCUSS. HE HAS BEEN IN VIETNAM FOR NEARLY A YEAR, HAS HAD SENIOR AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THAT, AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED AND DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BULK OF OUR PROGRAM THERE IN THE PROVINCIAL CADRE AND INTELLIGENCE FIELDS. SHOULD THERE BE SOME RESIDUAL MATTERS FOLLOWING YOUR VISIT TO SAIGON, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HOLD JOHN HART HERE IN WASHINGTON UNTIL YOU RETURN.

"2. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR REQUEST FOR A FULL RUNDOWN ON OUR PERSONNEL COMMITMENTS TO VIETNAM, I AM SURE THAT SAIGON STATION WILL GIVE YOU A FULL BRIEF OF TODAY'S SITUATION. THEY MAY NOT BE AS WELL EQUIPPED TO GIVE YOU THE TREND OVER THE YEARS, BUT I AM ARRANGING THAT A FULL BRIEFING ON OUR PERSONNEL

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

RS

MESSAGE FORM
TOTAL COPIES

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TO :
FROM :
SUBJECT :

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S E C R E T

ROUTING	
1	5
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DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

PAGE TWO (2)

DESTROY RETURN TO _____ BRANCH

FROM: DIRECTOR

INFO: VR , FILE RID COPY

(CLASSIFICATION) (DATE AND TIME FILED) (ELITE) (PICA)
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S E C R E T

CITE DIRECTOR

35095

TO SAIGON INFO []

STRENGTHS IN VIETNAM BETWEEN 1959 - 1967, WITH THE PROGRAMS TO WHICH THEY WERE COMMITTED, BE PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION TO YOU ON YOUR RETURN HERE. I HOPE THIS WILL WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY.

"3. WITH RESPECT TO GARRISON'S ALLEGATIONS, WE ARE GATHERING TOGETHER ALL POSSIBLE FACTS AND WILL CERTAINLY BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE FULL AND STRAIGHT STORY AS NEEDED. THANK YOU FOR THE SUGGESTION. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MR. GARRISON WERE SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFIC IN HIS ALLEGATIONS."

(END OF MESSAGE)

RICHARD HELMS, DCI
RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

S E C R E T

THOMAS H. KARAMESSINES,
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

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(RS)