

MESSAGE FOR: TOTAL COPIES: 20

TO: RICHARD HELMS
FROM: DIRECTOR
DATE: 6164
TE: 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	

DISSEMINATED BY: 15 PER #

DESTROY RETURN TO BRANCH

FROM: DIRECTOR

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

CSDO, C/FE8, C/SAVA, D/PAB, O/C
(CLASSIFICATION) (DATE AND TIME FILED) (ELITE) (PICA)
SECRET

SEP 13 15 14 '67 CITE DIRECTOR

TO: IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO: BANGKOK VIENTIANE 35095

RYBAT
RE: BANGKOK 1703 (IN-50816) *
FOR SENATOR SYMINGTON FROM MR. HELMS
(*Reported ACOS conversation with Sen. Symington.)

ux

"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

COORDINATING OFFICERS
RELEASING OFFICER
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER
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SECRET

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PAGE TWO (2)

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(CLASSIFICATION)

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CITE DIRECTOR

35095

TO SAIGON INFO [BANGKOK VIENTIANE]

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

SECRET

THOMAS H. KARAMESSINES,
AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

GROUP 1
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