

25-4

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

2	5	8
3	6	9

AGE 0 COI 0 ACP 0 TOG 0 TPE 0 MRO 0 DCI 0

PAGE 1 OF 14 PAGES HR70-14

CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~  
MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

STAFF

DATE-TIME GROUP  
252340Z

CITE  
DIRECTOR

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: C/EA [ ] INFO: FILE C/EA, C/SS [ ] OOA  
C/000 [ ] 000, 000/00, 0600  
016652

INDEX DISSEM BY: 60  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IP FILES #

TO: IMMEDIATE SAIGON, PHNOM PENH. Y

[ ] ADMIN AIR OPS Y

REF: A. SAIGON [ ] IN [ ]

B. PHNOM PENH [ ] IN [ ] \*Y

1. FYI ONLY: IN LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SAGA OF FOLLOW-ON AIR SUPPORT, APPARENTLY DECISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN TO DISCUSS WITH GVN THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING WITH AIR VIETNAM ON THE BASIS WE REPORTED EARLIER. HOWEVER, IF IN AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S OPINION AIR VIETNAM IS UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE AIR SERVICES CONTRACT ON A COMPETENT AND TIMELY BASIS, HE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO SEEK A SOLE SOURCE DOLLAR PAYMENT CONTRACT WITH CASI. MESSAGE CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED BY STATE FOR THE FIELD AND AMBASSADOR MARTIN WILL TAKE ACTION SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL ON/ABOUT THURSDAY. Y

2. INSOFAR AS CURRENT PROBLEMS ARE CONCERNED PER REF A, HQS REPS MET WITH AIR AMERICA REPS PAUL VELTE AND JOHN FORD TO DISCUSS CURRENT SHORT FALLS AND TO SEEK SOME MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT. VELTE AND FORD WERE BRIEFED ON DETERIORATING SITUATION AND

DATE: 25 MAR 75

ORIG: [ ]

UNIT: DC/VNO

EXT: [ ]

~~SECRET~~

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASEL DATE:  
21-Oct-2009

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

[ ]

2	3	4	5
3	4	5	6

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE 2 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~  
MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- IP FILES #

IMPORTANCE TO BOTH MISSIONS OF AIR AMERICA CONTINUING CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE REQUIRED SERVICES. VELTE AGREES WITH YOUR PERCEPTION THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTRACT SUCCESSION WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AND PERHAPS PARA 1 MAY PROVIDE THAT SOON. VELTE IS ALSO CONSIDERING PROVIDING A BONUS TO ALL NON-INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL, AS AN INCENTIVE TO KEEP THEM ON THE JOB THROUGH THE CONTRACT LIFE. HE WILL ALSO CHECK AIR AMERICA'S FURLOUGH LIST TO SEEK OUT ADDITIONAL PILOTS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO SERVE FOR REMAINDER OF CONTRACT. {VELTE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT IMMEDIATE RELIEF UNDER THIS COURSE OF ACTION SINCE LOCATING, REHIRING AND RETRAINING WOULD TAKE FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.} VELTE AND FORD SAID THAT THEY WILL BE GOING TO SAIGON MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK TO TRY TO HELP WITH THE PROBLEM FIRST-HAND. 4

3. IN DISCUSSING CONTINUING CAPABILITY, VELTE/FORD POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE 77 PILOTS, INCLUDING SUPERVISORS, ON DUTY IN SOUTH VIETNAM/CAMBODIA. THESE PILOTS HAVE BEEN AVERAGING APPROXIMATELY 120 HOURS DAILY ON ALL CONTRACTS IN THE AREA, WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF OPTIMUM USE. THEY SUGGESTED AND WILL

DATE:  
ORIG:  
UNIT:  
EXT:

SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY  
 AGI 0 COI 0 ACP 0 TOG 0 TPE 0 MRO 0 DCI 0

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

CLASSIFICATION  
~~SECRET~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR DATE-TIME GROUP CITE MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF: INFO: FILE

- INDEX DISSEM BY:
- NO INDEX
- RETURN TO PER
- IP FILES #

LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING BETTER USE OF THE AVAILABLE ASSETS AND PILOT TIME. VELTE SAID THAT WITH 48 HOURS NOTICE, AIR AMERICA ASSETS COULD SURGE TO DOUBLE UTILIZATION ON A ONE-SHOT 24 HOURS BASIS WITH EACH AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT BEING USED FULLY FOR EIGHT HOURS DAY. HE NOTED THAT UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS HE COULD ARRANGE FOR SINGLE CREWING OF UH1H'S AND UH1B WHICH ARE FLYABLE. UNDER SUCH SURGE CONDITIONS HE NOTED THAT THE FIVE C-46/47'S COULD PROVIDE 40 HOURS, THE FIVE VTB'S COULD PROVIDE 40 HOURS, THE THREE PORTERS COULD PROVIDE 24 HOURS AND CHOPPERS COULD PROVIDE 120 HOURS. HE HAS THREE FLYABLE CARIBOU IN COUNTRY WHICH MIGHT BE USED VICE THE 46/47. UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS HE COULD CONSIDER REMOVAL OF CONSTRAINTS ON PILOT FLIGHT TIME. 4

4. HOWEVER, DESPITE AAM MANAGEMENT BEST INTENTIONS, SITUATION REMAINS AS YOU HAVE DESCRIBED IN REF A AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS DIMINISHING CAPABILITY MIGHT SEVERELY IMPACT ON YOUR URGENT NEEDS. WE PARTICULARLY WANT COS PHNOM PENH TO BE AWARE OF THIS CONTINUING PROBLEM BECAUSE REF B STATED HE PLANNING TO RELY ON AIR AMERICA FOR EVACUATION. FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT COMPETING

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

WARNING NOTICE  
 SENSITIVE INFORMATION SOURCES  
 AND METHODS INVOLVED

RELEASING OFFICER COORDINATING OFFICERS AUTHENTICATING OFFICER  
 CLASSIFICATION REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED  
~~SECRET~~

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

2	3	4	5
3	6	7	8

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO DCI  
 OMF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

PAGE OF PAGES  
 4 4

CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

[Redacted]

INDEX DISSEM BY:  
 NO INDEX  
 RETURN TO PER  
 IF FILES #

EMERGENCY DEMANDS COULD WELL DEVELOP IN BOTH COUNTRIES  
 SIMULTANEOUSLY. WE URGE COS PHNOM PENH TO MAINTAIN HIS OPTIONS  
 FOR EVACUATION UNDER [Redacted] AS WELL AS UNDER

[Redacted] 4

5. IN REGARD TO THE [Redacted] ASSETS, IT WILL BE AT LEAST  
 TEN DAYS BEFORE SECOND CARRIER WITH HELICOPTERS ARRIVES IN INDO-  
 CHINA AREA. STATIONS CANNOT COUNT ON THIS AS AN IMMEDIATE SOLUTION  
 TO PROBLEM. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON ANY ~~STATE~~ DECISION RE  
 CALL-UP OF OUTSIDE AIR RESOURCES BUT WILL CONTINUE CHECKING ON  
 DEVELOPMENTS AND AVAILABILITY. 4

20

6. RECOGNIZE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF TOO HASTY AND  
 FLAGRANT MOVES BY STATIONS IN GETTING PEOPLE OUT OF HARMS WAY BUT  
 SUGGEST THAT IN THOSE CASES SUCH AS IN DANANG AND NHA TRANG EARLIEST  
 CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO IN-COUNTRY REDEPLOYMENT OF THOSE  
 PERSONNEL NOT DIRECTLY REQUIRED TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS. COMMEND  
 PHNOM PENH'S ACTION IN RELOCATING [Redacted] OFFICERS TO AREAS CLOSER  
 TO THAI BORDER WHERE EVACUATION WOULD BE SIMPLER. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

WIGON REPORTS DIMINISHING CAPABILITY AIR AMERICA TO HANDLE AIR SUPPORT.  
 ORIG: \*\*DISCUSSED REPOSTURING OF [Redacted] AND INDICATED STATION WAS DEPENDING ON CONTRACT  
 UNIT: AIR FOR EVACUATION IF NECESSARY.  
 EXT: 25 MAR 75

DC/VNO  
 THEODORE G. SHACKLEY'S C/EA

RELEASING OFFICER

SENSITIVE INFORMATION SOURCES  
 AND METHODS INVOLVED

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

~~SECRET~~

[Redacted]