

17 January 1966

NOTE FOR

1. Peer de Silva is in a perishing sweat for a study which will examine the consequences of a US occupation of the area in Laos roughly between Route 12, with its western anchor on Thakhek, and Route 9, with its western anchor on Savannakhet.

2. As I read him, he feels such measures would serve a three-fold purpose: (a) exercise a salutary influence over the situation in northeast Thailand; (b) make a big contribution to the inhibition of the flow of supplies south to the battle in Vietnam; and (c) chill the exuberance of the VC terrorism and sabotage in South Vietnam.

3. As of now the request is pretty much Peer, but bear in mind that he is a fairly senior citizen in Vietnam circles, and his advocacy of the above is certain to be brought to the attention -- if it is not already there -- of high-level policy people. My guess is that Peer's words are a timely alert for a similar request from someone we cannot turn down, such as for example.

SHERMAN KENT