

Executive Registry
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Intelligence Collection in South Vietnam

With regard to your meeting with Mr. Clifford today, herewith a brief summary of the intelligence collection programs and techniques we are employing in South Vietnam.

1. The classic and well-recognized patterns of liaison with and support of Vietnamese police and intelligence organizations are of course being followed and greatly expanded, in terms of both personnel involved and funds being expended.

[Redacted]

The result of this work is an extensive product considered by our military authorities in SVN as being essential to their effort.

2. Beyond this normal and well-understood method of intelligence collection, other more refined and complicated techniques have had to be developed. Particularly has this been true, in SVN, in trying to get at the information known by members of the rural population, concerning VC activities and identities which they are afraid to divulge. We have developed three specific programs which use different techniques in approaching the same goal, but which all have in common one tactic or device: the winning of local popular confidence and trust through good works and service. This doctrine, when practiced with care and thoroughness, has proved successful in allaying peasant fear and distrust, and in starting up the flow of voluntary intelligence from a popular base. This of course has been a most significant advance. It has greatly increased the flow of significant

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political and military intelligence, but of greater importance has blazed the way for the kind of popular support to local authorities that will be necessary for the long-term control and suppression of subversion and terror. This more unusual means of gathering intelligence employs civic action and some armed action, but only as necessary levers to get the intelligence traffic moving.

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other hand, the above summary does honestly reflect new and original approaches to the intelligence collection problem that the Agency has devised and is employing with widely recognized success.

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