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28 September 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. Colonel Robert M. Montague
Military Assistant to Mr. Komer**

SUBJECT : Calculation of Viet Cong Irregular Strength

1. Per your telephone request I am sending you the attached draft working paper which analyzes our strength holdings on Viet Cong irregulars. As you will see, this paper reviews evidence which suggests that our currently accepted figure of 100,000 to 120,000 may be extremely low. It was the evidence reviewed in this paper which prompted the cautionary footnotes on the Viet Cong strength in our memorandum of 26 August on "The Vietnamese Communists' Will to Persist".

2. Please understand that the attached paper is a working draft, a study of fragmentary evidence pointing in one interesting direction. It is not a finished product nor does it represent a firm CIA position. This working paper was passed to DIA and taken to Saigon by [redacted] of DIA for discussion with appropriate elements of COMUSMACV. [redacted] who has just returned, advises that MACV's comments on Viet Cong irregular strength will be received in Washington by 1 November. MACV is presently engaged in a major review of its Communist order of battle holdings and its position on Viet Cong irregulars will constitute part of that review.

**George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs**

Attachment

- Orig 1 - Addressee w/att
- 1 - [redacted] w/o att
- 1 - [redacted] /o att
- 1 - [redacted] w/o att
- 1 - [redacted] w/o att
- 1 - White House Liaison w/o att
- 1 - VAS Chrono w/o att
- 1 - GAC Chrono w/o att ✓

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