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23 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Desmond FitzGerald, DDP
Mr. William E. Colby, C/FE
Mr. Robert L. Bannerman, DDS

SUBJECT : Agency Response to McNamara Proposal on
Reorganization of Pacification Responsibilities
in Vietnam

1. Attached is a copy of a draft Department of Defense memorandum proposing a radical reorganization of pacification responsibilities in Vietnam. As indicated in Assistant Secretary McNaughton's buckslip by which it was transmitted, Secretary McNamara was asked to prepare this (presumably by Mr. Komer, though this is not stated) and wants to discuss it with the Director "toward the end of next week", with a view to having an agreed paper ready to go to the President the following week.

2. The Director has asked me to formulate and draft the Agency's position on this proposal and give him a memorandum by the middle of next week. Since, in essence, the OSD draft advocates carving up our Saigon Station and placing its key elements under COMUSMACV's command authority, we have our work cut out for us in developing the right response.

3. Could we please meet to discuss this matter at 1400 on Monday, 26 September, in my office (6F19). After we agree among ourselves what the Agency's posture should be, my staff and I will draft a memorandum for the Director which we will circulate for your scrutiny and comments on Tuesday (27 September) in order to get it to Mr. Helms in final form by opening of business Wednesday.

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

cc: Colonel White, Executive Director/Comptroller
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