

8 DEC 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Secretary of Defense**

SUBJECT : Annam

1. During the course of Vietnamese history the term "Annam" has been used in two different ways, producing some confusion since each of the two uses denotes a different piece of geography.

2. During the middle and latter part of the period of Chinese rule which lasted from 111 B.C. to 939 A.D., "Annam" (literally, "pacified south") was the somewhat inaccurate generic label employed by the Chinese to denote the land inhabited by the southern (nam) Viets, or Viet-Nam. This usage lingered until the early 1950's in the sense that until well after World War II "Annam" was the most common generic term for the portions of French Indochina inhabited by Vietnamese.

3. In a more technical sense, "Annam" was the name for a single French protectorate. Administratively, French Indochina was a five-part entity. Laos and Cambodia were protectorates. What we now call Vietnam (North and South) was divided into one colony (Cochin China) and two protectorates (Tonkin and Annam). Their boundaries are shown on the attached map. As you will note, Tonkin (rendered in English as Tonking) is essentially the Red River delta. Cochin China is the area south of the central mountain massif, including the Mekong delta. Annam is the middle portion of Vietnam between the two delta regions.

4. The French division of Vietnam into Tonkin, Annam and Cochin China had some historical foundation since these are the traditional three "Ky" or regions of the Vietnamese people around which what amounts to three regionally-oriented sub-cultures have developed. This regional orientation and these regionally-based loyalties are among the many factors which complicate South (and North) Vietnamese political life today.

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Attachment