

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Gen. Haig

Haig for
ACTION

January 18, 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

Phil Odeen *PO*

SUBJECT:

Follow-on VSSG Activities

The enclosed memorandum lays on the requirements for the additional Vietnam studies agreed to at yesterday's SRG meeting. While the general tasks to be done were agreed to at the meeting, I believe the follow-on memorandum would be useful to ensure that all of the information we will need is provided.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the enclosed memorandum (Tab A).

John Negroponte *JK* and Dick Kennedy *DK* concur.

NSS, DOS, OSD Reviews
Completed

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR

The Under Secretary of State
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Director, Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Vietnam Assessment

At the SRG meeting of January 17, 1972, it was agreed that there should be a further evaluation of the military situation in Vietnam and measures designed to improve U.S. and RVNAF military capabilities in light of the enemy threats expected through July 1, 1972.

In particular, the following areas should be examined:

-- The enemy threat. The earlier assessment should be sharpened to evaluate specific enemy courses of action in MR-1 and MR-2 in light of the most recent infiltration information. The timing as well as the scope of various courses of action should be outlined.

-- The immediate actions, if any, required to ensure RVNAF and U.S. readiness to cope with enemy activities. In particular, the advantages and disadvantages of RVNAF ground/air effort, including cross-border and interdiction operations, to pre-empt an enemy offensive in northern South Vietnam should be examined.

-- The measures required to correct the RVNAF manpower situation, particularly shortages in its combat units. The measures evaluated should include among others (a) putting available manpower into combat units, and (b) further measures to reduce desertions.

-- The recent series of GVN actions to improve leadership and major remaining leadership problems.

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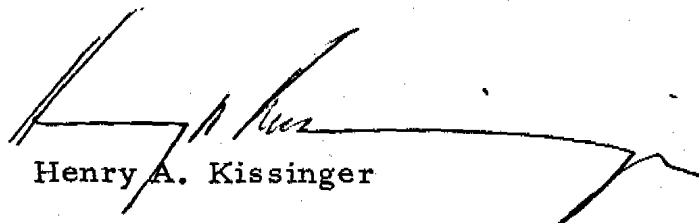
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-- The airpower situation, particularly helicopter support, required to carry out priority missions in South Vietnam. This study should examine the capabilities of the planned South Vietnamese force as well as alternatives involving (a) a greater RVNAF air capability through, among other actions, provision of additional lift and light helicopters and STOL aircraft, and (b) additional artillery support.

-- The size and composition of remaining U.S. forces in Vietnam. In particular, alternative force structures should be developed that vary in the emphasis given to (a) helicopter support, (b) other air support, (c) advisory, (d) security, (e) logistics, and (f) intelligence activities. The specific capabilities of these alternative postures should be assessed along with their long-term implications.

This evaluation should be prepared by the Department of Defense and CIA under the general direction of the VSSG Working Group. It should be completed by January 24, 1972, for consideration by the NSC Senior Review Group at a meeting now scheduled for January 26, 1972.



Henry A. Kissinger

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