

MEMORANDUM

[Outside the System]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION

NSA review completed

HAK 30-3-27-5

January 27, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER
FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY
SUBJECT: Civilianization of COMINT

As noted in my memorandum of January 25, Ambassador Bunker and CAS Saigon urged President Thieu to transfer the COMINT activity from the Joint General Staff to a civilian agency of the GVN. It had been agreed in the WSAG meeting of January 24 that this course was desirable in order that we be able to continue providing essential advice and support following the ceasefire while at the same time be continuing to receive the intelligence benefits of the GVN COMINT activity.

Carver's memorandum attached (Tab A) advises that Thieu has now directed that this shift be made. A decree civilianizing the COMINT service will be issued January 27 Saigon time. The decree will be distributed only to the President, the Prime Minister, the JGS, and the head of the COMINT Service.

Despite the transparency of this move, it should satisfactorily solve the problem and allow us to continue the needed assistance using civilian personnel of NSA.

Attachment

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Page Denied

Page Denied

Page Denied