

SECRET

MAR 1 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Rear Admiral Daniel J. Murphy
Military Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense

SUBJECT: Answers to Questions on US Civilians in
South Vietnam

This is in response to your January 31, 1973 memorandum asking for our comments on proposed answers to questions asked by Senator Fulbright as a result of Ambassador Porter's confirmation hearing.

Attached are the questions and answers you sent us with the latter revised in several instances. We agree with your caution about the publicity on this issue at this time and therefore the information contained in the attachment should be handled in the lowest key possible by the Defense and State Departments.

1.5/

Brent Scowcroft
Brigadier General, USAF

DOS REVIEWED 18-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

Attachment

REFER TO DOS

OSD REVIEWED 08-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

SECRET

Question: Will there be an Attache Organization in SVN? What size will be authorized:

Answer: There will be an Attache Organization in SVN. It will consist of 50 military personnel.

Question: Is the US allowed to provide civilian technicians to maintain SVN equipment?

Answer: Yes, US contractors may be hired to maintain SVN equipment. They will be under the management of US DOD civilians. DOD civilians are limited to the number in-country at the signing of the agreement and will be phased out in the near future as conditions permit. They will be subject to direction and guidance of the U.S. Ambassador.

Question: What arrangements has DOD made to provide military advice, logistic support, or technical advice and support to the Saigon government.

Answer: The treaty precludes provision of military advice to the South Vietnamese Armed Forces, and none will be provided. Technical advice and logistic support will be provided by military personnel of the attache office, DOD civilian personnel, and by the civilian contractors.

Question: How many civilian technicians and advisors are being left in RVN?

Answer: The level of civilian technicians present in SVN at the signing will be authorized. These total approximately 1200 DOD civilians and 5500 US contractor personnel. The DOD civilians will be phased out in the near future as conditions permit. None are engaged in combat or combat training.

Question: How are these men recruited?

Answer: By standard Civil Service procedures.

Question: Under whose direction will they function and who will pay them?

Answer: The US Ambassador will exercise his responsibilities as Chief of the Country Team and DOD will direct and pay these personnel.

Question: What are the Administration's plans for the administration of future military assistance to SVN? Will the Administration seek to continue its funding within the DOD budget or will it be transferred to the regular MAP program?

Answer: It is the Administration's view that MASF funding should continue through FY 74 in order to provide flexibility in providing support under the terms of the agreement and to facilitate transition to a peacetime posture.

SECRET

SECRET

ACTION
March 1, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT
FROM: WINSTON LORD
SUBJECT: Answers to Questions on US Civilians
in South Vietnam

I understand that Defense still needs our response to the questions and answers ~~that~~ sent on US civilians in South Vietnam. Attached for your signature at Tab A is a memo to Murphy enclosing our revised answers (which HAK has seen), and cautioning DOD about undue publicity on this issue.

For your reference, I have also attached at Tab B the marked up version of DOD's original answers.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo at Tab A.

SECRET

SECRET

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2012/02/13 : LOC-HAK-31-3-2-1



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

31 January 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

State has requested that Defense provide responses to a list of questions asked by Senator Fulbright as a consequence of Ambassador Porter's confirmation hearing on 30 January.

The answers prepared, which are attached, are frank in releasing for the first time information on the size and functioning of DOD elements in Vietnam after withdrawals are complete. While it is advantageous from our point of view to be open and frank, I am concerned about the possibility that this information at this time may have an adverse effect on the other side's implementation of the ceasefire or on continuing discussions. We are holding up clearance for State on these answers until I get an indication from you that the proposed answers are satisfactory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Murphy".

Daniel J. Murphy
RADM US Navy
Military Assistant

Attachment

SECRET

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-0366

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2012/02/13 : LOC-HAK-31-3-2-1

Question: Will there be an Attache Organization in SVN? What size will be authorized:

Answer: There will be an Attache Organization in SVN. It will consist of 50 military personnel, ~~and 1200 civilians who will function not only in the traditional attache role, but will provide logistic support to the South Vietnamese Armed Forces.~~

Question: Is the US allowed to provide civilian technicians to maintain SVN equipment?

Answer: Yes, US contractors may be hired to maintain SVN equipment, ^{They will be} under the management of US DOD civilians, ~~attached to the attache office.~~ DOD civilians are limited to the number in-country at the signing of the agreement and will be phased out in the near future as conditions permit. *They will be subject to direction and guidance of the U.S. Ambassador,*

Question: What arrangements has DOD made to provide military advice, logistic support, or technical advice and support to the Saigon government.

Answer: The treaty precludes provision of military advice to the South Vietnamese Armed Forces, and none will be provided. Technical advice and logistic support will be provided by military ~~and civilian~~ personnel ~~attached to~~ the attache office, and by the civilian contractors.

Question: How many civilian technicians and advisors are being left in RVN?

Answer: The level of civilian technicians present in SVN at the signing will be authorized. These total approximately 1200 DOD civilians and 5500 US contractor personnel. The DOD civilians will be phased out in the near future as conditions permit.

Question: How are these men recruited?

Answer: By standard Civil Service procedures.

Question: Under whose direction will they function and who will pay them?

Answer: The US Ambassador will exercise his responsibilities as Chief of the Country Team and DOD will direct and pay these personnel.

Question: What are the Administration's plans for the administration of future military assistance to SVN? Will the Administration seek to continue its funding within the DOD budget or will it be transferred to the regular MAP program?

Answer: It is the Administration's view that MASF funding should continue through FY 74 in order to provide flexibility in providing support under the terms of the agreement and to facilitate transition to a peacetime posture.