

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MAR 24 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR

OSD review
completed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE DIRECTOR, U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY

MORI/CDF per pgs 2/3 re C05082092

SUBJECT: Special Prisoner of War Committee

1. The President has decided that efforts on behalf of our prisoners of war in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos might be made more effective if an interagency committee is set up to exercise guidance and control over all activities, both overt and covert, which are undertaken in connection with the POW issue. He has therefore directed that a Special Prisoner of War Committee be established under the chairmanship of a member of the National Security Council Staff, which will meet regularly for the purposes just described.
2. Each of the Departments and Agencies now concerned with POW affairs should nominate representatives to serve on the Special POW Committee as follows:
 - Department of Defense: one representative from SACSA and one from ISA;
 - Department of State: one officer with experience in POW affairs;
 - CIA: one person familiar with Southeast Asian operations;
 - USIA: one person with psychological warfare background.
3. The charter of the Special POW Committee will be to consider and supervise measures, both in the overt and clandestine field, which can put pressure on Hanoi. Overtly, it will assure that a series of hard-hitting

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statements on POWs are drafted for the Paris talks, it will consider contacts with foreign governments as appropriate, and it will coordinate efforts to achieve inspections of POW facilities, exchange of mail and packages, release of name lists, and release of sick and wounded POWs. This will be in accordance with consultations with the Departments of State and Defense. On the clandestine side, it will undertake to exercise jurisdiction over the various efforts of CIA and Armed Forces units to free our POWs. It might also see that contacts are maintained with "peace" groups which have opened up some degree of access to POWs in North Vietnam. It will propose and regulate psychological operations of both a "black" and overt nature.

4. Actual operations agreed upon by the Special POW Committee will be carried out by the Departments or Agencies most directly concerned.
5. The suspense date for action on this directive is March 27, 1970.

(Signed) HENRY A. KISSINGER

Henry A. Kissinger

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