

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

PACOM Review Completed

*All of this
is a requirement
24 DEC 1970*

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

NAVY review completed.

*against going
through with it.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of Covert Assets Previously Used in NVN Operations

Reference is made to your memorandum of 23 November 1970, subject as above, in which you requested amplification of certain statements contained in a memorandum from the Secretary of Defense, dated 12 November 1970, as well as a status report on specific operational plans for DOD covert operations targeted against North Vietnam.

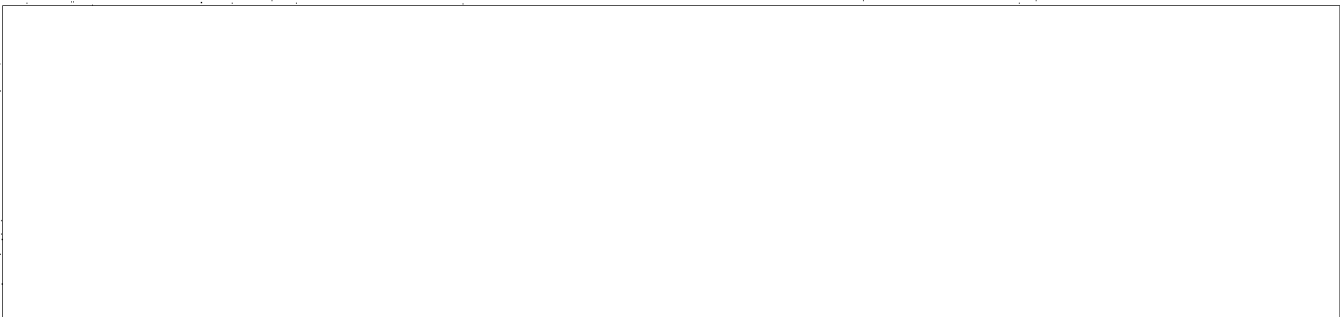
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The following sub-paragraphs are keyed to your request:

a. Placing the seven patrol torpedo fast (PTF) boats presently assigned to the MACV Studies and Observations Group (MACSOG) in reserve status will provide an estimated \$110,000 savings in MACSOG funding for Vietnamese boat crews, an estimated \$1.5 million in US Navy operating funds, and allow closure of the US Navy PTF repair facility at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

*Give back
this doesn't
happen to
be what
P. wanted*

b. Current planning calls for placing these seven PTFs in dry storage in the Philippines. Although these boats could be returned to Vietnam within thirty days, the PTF boat crews and maintenance personnel experienced in these operations will have been lost to other Vietnamese Navy tasks. If retrievable, they would require refresher training prior to resumption of PTF operations. Training of new crews and maintenance personnel would require at least ten additional weeks. Intelligence and NVN coastal targeting information would require updating. Additionally, the PTF facilities at Danang, RVN, would undoubtedly have been put to other use. Cross-beach teams will, however, be available.



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REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

MORI/CDF per C05099326

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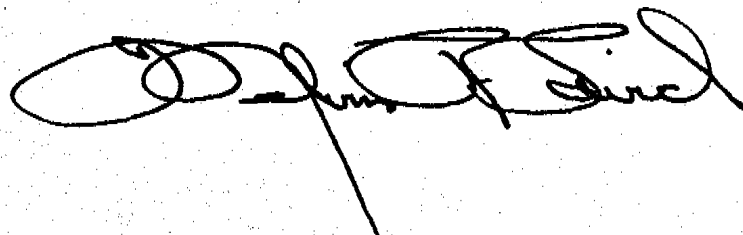
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c. As to the limited capability of the other VNN craft, the Patrol Craft Fast (PCF) could be used in lieu of the PTF. The PCF has a 650 mile range, a top speed of approximately 28 knots and is armed with one 81mm mortar and three 50 cal. machine guns. PCF operations would be limited to the area below 18 degrees, 30 minutes North (vicinity of Vinh, NVN). The PTF on the other hand can operate as far north as 20 degrees, 30 minutes North (vicinity of Haiphong), has a range of 1,000 miles and a top speed of approximately 40 knots. PTF armament includes one 81mm mortar, one 40mm gun and one 50 cal. machine gun. Additionally, there are mounts for two 20mm guns. PTF speed and armament, therefore, provide a higher survivability factor in hostile waters.

As the PCFs will continue to afford us the means to mount covert operations along the NVN coast up to the Vinh area, I continue to believe that we should proceed immediately to place the patrol torpedo fast boats in reserve status in WESTPAC.

In regard to the status of the two or three specific operational plans you requested for DOD covert operations targeted against North Vietnam, CINCPAC is currently developing such plans.

If, after review, these plans appear feasible and beneficial, I will forward them for consideration.



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