

MEMORANDUM

552

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

OBE

ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (TOP SECRET  
ATTACHMENTS)

February 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT  
FROM: WILLIAM D. STEARMAN *WDS*  
SUBJECT: Civilian Manning Level for the DAO Saigon

General Wickham sent you a memorandum (Tab C) informing you of DOD's decision to reduce the DAO Saigon civilian staff from 1,200 to 936. You asked Ambassador Martin for his views (Tab D), and he replied (Tab E) that he concurred in the decision but would feel "more comfortable" if you would direct DOD to retain the 1,200 ceiling as a budgetary level. At Tab A is a memorandum from you to Wickham requesting that this be done. This should pose no real problems since Wickham stated (in Tab C) that the Secretary of Defense has "granted authority to augment this permanent [DAO] staff up to the 1,200 manning level with TDY personnel..." Defense may, however, balk at Martin's request for authority to hire permanent personnel above the 936 level; nevertheless, we should give him this flexibility. At Tab B is a back channel message to Martin informing him of your action (as he requested in Tab E).

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A and send the message at Tab B.

OSD, DIA, NSS  
reviews completed.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ GDS

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**WASHINGTON**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**MEMORANDUM FOR**

**MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.**  
**Military Assistant to the Secretary**  
**Office of the Secretary of Defense**

**SUBJECT:                   Civilian Manning Level for the Defense Attache**  
**Office (DAO), Saigon**

Neither the NSC nor Ambassador Martin has any problems with the decision to reduce the DOD civilian staff of the DAO, Saigon from 1,200 to 936 personnel -- as described in your memorandum of January 28, 1974. Ambassador Martin, however, has requested that the 1,200 ceiling be retained as a budgetary level with authority vested in the DAO, with the approval of the Ambassador, to go from the effective planning level of 936 to 1,200 by either permanent hire or TDY as the situation in Saigon may demand.

We agree with Ambassador Martin that he needs this flexibility. It is therefore requested that the 1,200 ceiling be retained in line with Ambassador Martin's recommendations.

**Brent Scowcroft**  
**Major General, U. S. Air Force**  
**Deputy Assistant to the President**  
**for National Security Affairs**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

TOP SECRET

25X1

TO: AMBASSADOR MARTIN

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

REF: Saigon 0593

1. We have sent Defense your recommendations on the DAO civilian ceiling (contained in para 3 of ref message) with instructions to implement them.
2. We agree you need this flexibility and hope this action will meet your needs.
3. Warm regards.

TOP SECRET