

6 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Subject: Support by C-119 of Branch in Indo-China

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1. In accordance with instructions from Deputy Director, CIA to Chief, Air Staff Division, Mr. Leonard Fitzgerald, USAF, and myself, this date called on General James H. Doolittle, Assistant to Secretary of Defense, to discuss the impending requirement to furnish twelve C-119's to fly the twelve USAF C-119's on loan to the branch in Indo-China. Present at the meeting were:

General James H. Doolittle, Assistant to Secretary of Defense
 Mr. William G. Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of Secretary of Defense
 Mr. Robert H. Taylor, Chief of Staff, Office of Special Operations
 Col. W. W. Beckwith, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Mr. Leonard Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief, Air Staff Division
 Mr. Robert H. Taylor, Chief, Branch C, Air Staff Division

2. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the situation insofar as he knew it, which led to the instruction to contact the Air Staff for the Secretary of Defense. It is noted that the Air Staff is currently in the process of reviewing the situation insofar as it is not to be used in the Philippines. This was done through the Air Staff, although Mr. Fitzgerald was not present, and he generally was a very cooperative. Mr. Fitzgerald was very helpful in that he was able to provide information in regard to the Air Staff's position. He stated that the Air Staff would not consider it possible to provide the Air Staff with the necessary, either in the Philippines and elsewhere. He also stated that if possible, the Air Staff would consider providing the Air Staff with the necessary information for the most part. He stated that the Air Staff is currently in the process of reviewing the situation insofar as it is not to be used in the Philippines.

3. Although the representatives of the Defense Department reviewed the situation insofar as it is not to be used in the Philippines, it is noted that the Air Staff is currently in the process of reviewing the situation insofar as it is not to be used in the Philippines. He stated that the Air Staff would not consider it possible to provide the Air Staff with the necessary, either in the Philippines and elsewhere. He also stated that if possible, the Air Staff would consider providing the Air Staff with the necessary information for the most part. He stated that the Air Staff is currently in the process of reviewing the situation insofar as it is not to be used in the Philippines.

L. Fitzgerald

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II. STANDBY AIRLIFT TEAM (OPERATION "STAIR"): As a result of discussions held during the OCS meeting of 5 May 1954, CAT was requested to take such steps as were necessary to establish a standby airlift team composed of twelve C-46 type aircraft capable of producing 2,000 flying hours per month, this airlift to be so organized that six of the twelve aircraft be fully prepared to move to an operating site on 24 hours notice. Field management took immediate action and on 21 June announced that the team had been organized and was prepared to carry out such emergency requirements as might be requested, such as emergency evacuations, etc.

The team mentioned in the last paragraph of Section One above will be drawn from this standby airlift capacity.

III. PARTICIPATION IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN AIRLINE: In light of the fact that Cambodia is now an independent state, CAT Management requested permission to explore the possibilities of CAT participation in the establishment of a local Cambodian airline.


Headquarters took the position that the exploration of CAT participation in Cambodian civil aviation matters is to be encouraged. Field management was instructed to proceed with the explorations and in their negotiations insist that any contractual arrangement be a profit-making venture to CAT. They were also instructed to keep Headquarters fully informed of latest developments and advise if CIA or other U. S. Government assistance is required.

A conference has been held with the newly appointed United States Ambassador to Cambodia, Mr. Robert McClintock, who stated that a definite political advantage is to be achieved in an American aviation company assisting the Government of Cambodia in developing its own civil aviation. He stated that upon his return to Cambodia (late September) he will assist CAT insofar as is possible.

IV. SUPPORT OF CIA OPERATIONS IN INDOCHINA: Following are the operations in Indochina presently being considered in which CAT has been asked to participate:

a. 

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

b. The running of overflights (possibly from bases in Northern Thailand) to give token drops to tribal guerrilla units supported  as the French are unable to operate above the 17th parallel in accordance with the terms of the armistice.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

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C. E. LAGUEUX
Chief, FE/6

1. General release authorized having this forewarning and stated that they will be looking for communc files from general agent to the air force on this general subject.

DATE: 1/26/68
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11 May 1954

- MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPARTMENT OF STATE (S-100)
- FROM: Mr. Charles W. Tollick
- SUBJECT: State Department abstinence with respect to the use of ~~any~~ Chinese Co-pilots in the support of French forces in Indo-China
1. Rough draft memorandum dated 7 May 1954, for Mr. Tollick

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1. The question of the use of G-1's Chinese personnel, co-pilots and maintenance technicians, in connection with G-1's effort in the support of the French forces in Indo-China is a matter on which we have frequently requested State Department guidance. Thus far, the State Department has prohibited their use. On most recent occasions this prohibition was in issue in connection with Mr. Robert Strong of the State Department were on 25 April and 6 May 1954 in connection with a request by the French military authorities to G-1 for additional pilots and aircraft needed to perform an airlift and airdrop of military supplies from Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu in northern Indo-China. Following a discussion by the State Department, G-1 management has been advised of the State Department prohibition on the use of Chinese personnel and aircraft in support of G-1's aircraft, and has been directed to take no action to obtain their services without State Department approval.

2. It is noted that the employment of G-1 personnel who would be in direct contact with the French forces and the State Department in the support of the French forces in Indo-China is a matter on which the State Department has frequently requested guidance. However, in response to the question of the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China, it should be noted that the State Department has not prohibited the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China, but has prohibited the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China.

3. The State Department's prohibition is not adequate to prevent the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China, and it is recommended that the State Department be advised of the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China, and that the State Department be advised of the employment of G-1 personnel in support of the French forces in Indo-China.

4. May 7, 1954

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4. On 7 May 1951 we were advised by Mr. Strong that a staff paper has been prepared for the approval of the Acting Under Secretary of State on both questions: that is, the use of Chinese personnel, and the aircraft. On 11 May Mr. Strong advised that as expected a decision to be rendered momentarily, probably today.

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20 August 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: FE/ [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : CAT Activities in Indochina

(b)(3)
(b)(6)

Further to the preparation of Operation Episode: Air Support in FIC, dated 25 May 1954, the following is a brief report of the activities of CAT in Indochina since that time. These are the only activities of CAT which, in the opinion of this Branch, are of sufficient importance to comment on.

I. SUPPORT TO FRENCH FORCES IN INDOCHINA: Subsequent to the fall of Dien Bien Phu and with the cessation of hostilities in general, CAT support of the French war effort in Indochina was reduced accordingly.

During the first half of June the missions flown were a combination of low level drops, landing of military cargoes and military transport flights to Seno and Ban Phan Hop. Three of the CAT aircraft were dispatched to Nha Trang (12-15 N - 109 11 E) to shuttle PAF equipment and spare parts to Saigon. Two aircraft were also detached to Saigon to shuttle POW's to Haiphong. During the latter half of June, CAT aircraft operated into two new DZ's, Thakhek (17 23 N - 104 - 43 E) and Mahaxay.

During the month of July, CAT crews operated twelve logistic support flights daily, averaging thirty to thirty-five hours per day.

Field Management reported that FEAF had received a Directive, from the Department of Air Force on 8 August, to remove from IC o/a 30 August 1954, the USAF C-119 aircraft, currently being operated by CAT crews. Therefore, the operation of the twelve USAF C-119 aircraft by CAT crews has ceased and this particular phase of the support operation was terminated.

As the French Air Force is still badly in need of additional air support, Mr. A. T. Cox, President of CAT, proceeded to Saigon to negotiate a contract with the French for CAT to provide an airlift team capable of producing one thousand flying hours monthly. Latest reports indicate that the French are favorably considering a contract of this nature.

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