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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

170-3816

23 JUL 1970

WSAG PAPER

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security AffairsThe Honorable U. Alexis Johnson
Under Secretary of State for
Political AffairsThe Honorable David Packard
Deputy Secretary of DefenseAdmiral Thomas H. Moorer
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT:

Proposed Formation of Two Additional
Lao Special Guerrilla Units for
Interdiction Operations in South Laos

1. This memorandum is submitted in response to a request by Dr. Kissinger on 17 July 1970 that a separate proposal be submitted to the Washington Special Action Group for the two Lao special guerrilla unit (SGU) battalions to be used in an expanded harassment and interdiction effort against North Vietnamese supply routes and lines of communication in south-Laos. The proposal for the recruitment, training and deployment of these two additional Lao SGU battalions was included in the CIA portion of the field response to the WSAG request for a coordinated interdiction plan for south Laos.

2. The CIA Vientiane Station outlined a program using ten existing and five programmed Lao SGU battalions. In addition, the proposal included an expanded interdiction effort based on the creation

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of 12 additional SGU battalions. This additional irregular force would be composed of [redacted] two additional Lao SGU battalions and six SGU battalions of ethnic Thai.

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

3. For years the available manpower of military age in south Laos has been the target of three principal sources of recruiting -- the Royal Lao Army, CIA and the communists. Active recruitment by these three sources has all but depleted the manpower reserve. During the past year, the Vientiane CIA Station has recruited five additional SGU battalions. It is believed, therefore, that an additional two SGU battalions is the maximum that can be recruited in south Laos. Due to ethnic differences and the shortage of manpower reserve in other Lao military regions, recruitment in other areas of Laos is not believed feasible.

4. If harassment and interdiction operations against the enemy lines of communication are to be significantly increased, additional SGU battalions will be required to augment the existing Vientiane Station irregular forces. The addition of these two Lao SGU battalions, [redacted] already approved by WSAG and the six Thai SGU battalions being proposed in a separate memorandum will increase our Vientiane Station's capability to mount sustained hit-and-run operations against the enemy's supply routes.

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

5. The total cost for training, the initial issue of equipment and the annual supporting requirements for the two Lao SGU battalions is estimated to be [redacted]. A detailed budget schedule for a standard 550-man SGU battalion is attached in support of this total cost estimate.

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

N.B. 6. The proposed formation of these two Lao SGU battalions is in support of the WSAG request for an intensified harassment and interdiction program against the North Vietnamese supply routes and lines of communication through south Laos. The funds for these battalions are not in the FY 1971 budget now before Congress. Moreover, it is estimated that the Laos paramilitary program for which CIA is now responsible will cost [redacted]

(b)(1) -
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more than the [redacted] request in the FY 1971 budget. The CIA contingency reserve is low and cannot begin to finance this and similar projects currently under consideration by WSAG. Implementation will, therefore, require that funds be provided from some source external to CIA.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

7. If this proposal is approved and the funds made available, it would be necessary to assign two additional paramilitary officers on a permanent basis [redacted]. These personnel will be made available from existing CIA resources.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

/s/ Thomas H. Karamessinos

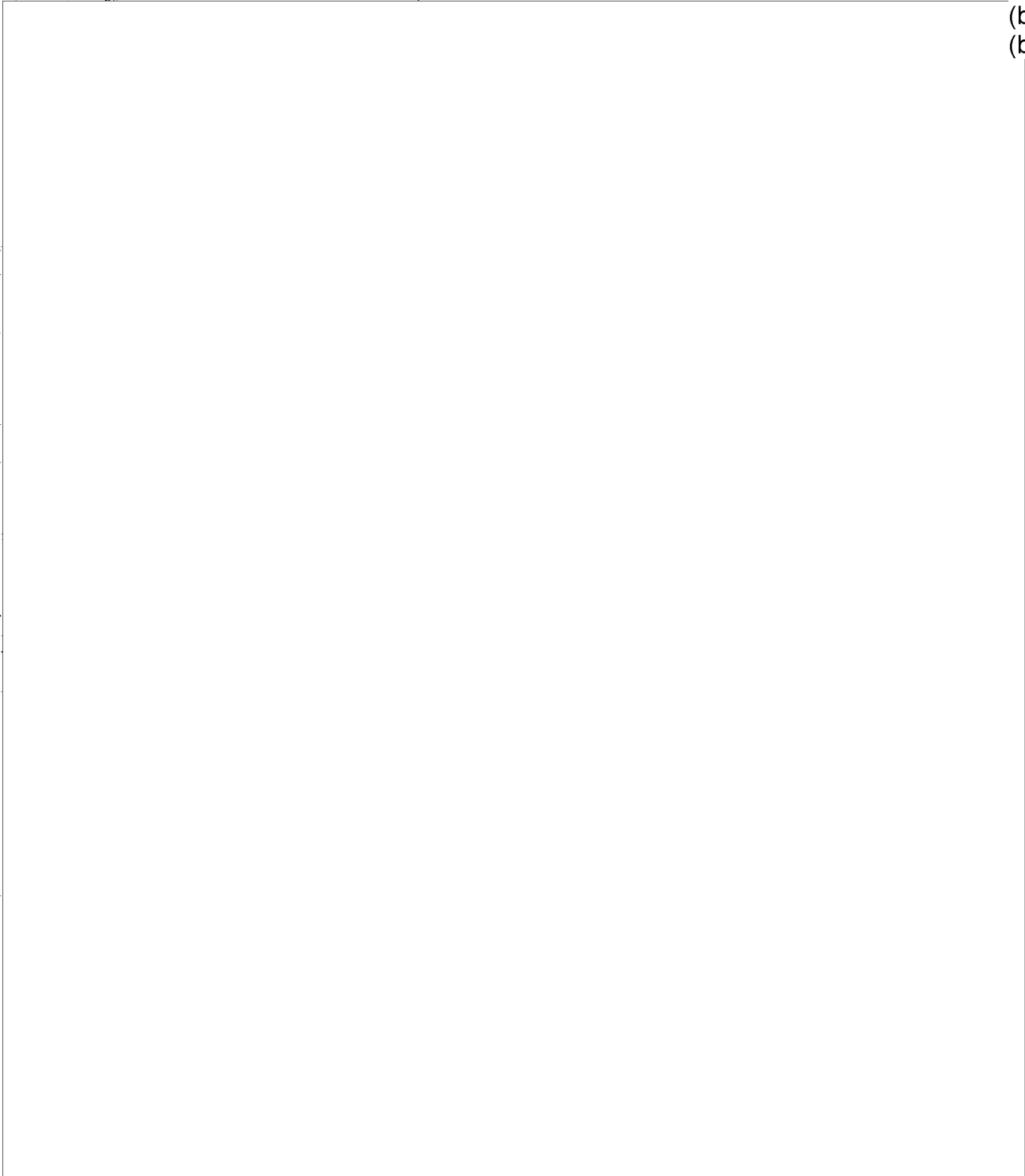
Thomas H. Karamessinos
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment
Budget Schedule

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21 July 1970

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



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Memorandum for the WSAG Principals

SUBJECT: Proposed Formation of Two Additional Lao SGUs for
Interdiction Operations in South Laos

DDP:CFE/TBL: [redacted] jmw (21 July 70)

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

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