IV. B. 2.

EVOLUTION OF THE WAR

Strategic Hamlet Program

1961 - 1963
UNITED STATES - VIETNAM RELATIONS
1945 - 1967

IV. B. 2.

EVOLUTION OF THE WAR

Strategic Hamlet Program

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4. Despatch, Saigon to State No 275, 7 March 1960, Intelligence Report No 2137261, p. 14 (S/RF)


6. SNTB 10-4-61, 7 November 1961, Probable Communist Reactions in South Vietnam, p. 3 (FS)


8. Ibid., p. 5

9. NIE 50-61, 28 March 1961, Outlook in Mainland Southeast Asia, p. 7 (S)

10. MAAG, Vietnam, 1 September 1961, First Twelve Month Report of Chief MAAG, Vietnam, p. 10 (S)


12. Letter of Transmittal to President Diem and President Kennedy, n.d. (June 1961), Joint Action Program Proposed by the Viet Nam-United States Special Financial Groups (S)

14. Letter, President Kennedy to General Maxwell D. Taylor, 13 October 1961 (C)


16. Ibid., p. 2

17. Ibid., p. 3

18. Ibid., p. 8

19. Ibid., pp. 6-7.

20. Ibid., p. 9

21. Ibid., p. 7

22. Ibid., p. 14

23. Ibid., See also pp. 11-15.

24. Ibid., pp. 11-12

25. The plan, cited hereafter as CIP-1960, is contained as an enclosure to Despatch Nr. 276, Saigon to State, 4 January 1961, Counter Insurgency Plan for South Vietnam. (S)

26. Despatch Nr. 276, Saigon to State, op. cit., p.3

27. See for example, Ibid., Annex B.


33. See, for example, Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 1466, 16 March 1961 (S), and Aide Memoire, McGarr to Diem, 3 July 1961, Review of Military Situation and Recommendations for Continued Improvement (S).

34. Telegram, Saigon to State, Nr. 508, 18 October 1961 (S).


36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. Copies of Thompson's covering letter and memorandum to Diem are enclosed with msg, Saigon to State, Nr. 205, 20 November 1961, Thompson Mission Recommendations to President Diem (S). The memorandum is cited hereafter as Thompson Memorandum.

39. Ibid.

40. Ibid., letter of transmittal. (Emphasis added).


42. Ibid.

43. Ibid.


46. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, 2 February 1962, A Strategic Concept for South Vietnam (S); on the President's interest and Thompson's effect on Kissinger, see Roger Hilsman, To Move a Nation: The Politics of Foreign Policy in the Administration of John F. Kennedy (New York: Doubleday, 1967), pp. 427-39.
47. A Strategic Concept for South Vietnam, op. cit., pp. 9-14. The third principle is Hilsman's own contribution, drawing heavily on his personal experiences with the OSS during World War II.

48. Ibid., pp. 15-19.

49. Ibid., pp. 15-24.

50. Ibid., p. 9


52. HQCINCPAC, 16 December 1961, Transcript, First Secretary of Defense Conference, pp. 1-2 (S)


54. Memorandum, McGarr to Mr. Thuen, 18 December 1961, Civil Government Peramilitary Infrastructure (Organization) Required as Integrated Part of Military Phase of Pacification Effort (S)

55. Ibid.

56. The GVN plan and actions are not well documented but are referred to in U.S. KAAG Vietnam Report, 31 July 1952, Lessons Learned Mr. 19.


59. HQCINCPAC, 15 January 1962, Record of Second Secretary of Defense Conference, pp. 5A-1 - 5A-3 (S)

60. Ibid., pp. 5-1 - 5-5.


62. Telegram, Saigon to State, Mr. 1031, 10 February 1962 (S).

63. Donnell and Hickey, op. cit., pp. 3-4.
64. Ibid., p. 4.


66. Ibid., p. 3.

67. Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 495, 16 October 1961 (S).

68. The U.S. proposals are recorded in National Security Action Memorandum No. 111, 22 November 1951, First Phase of Vietnam Program (TS).

69. Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 637, 22 November 1961 (S).

70. Ibid.

71. Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 708, 25 November 1961 (S).

72. Telegram, CAS New Delhi to Director No 9941, from Ambassador Galbreath for the President, 21 November 1961 (TS).


74. Telegram Saigon to State Nr. 1367, 22 May 1962 (S).

75. Telegram, Saigon to State Nr. 133, 8 August 1962 (C); Airgrams, Saigon to State, Nrs. A-85 and A-110, 9 August and 27 August 1962 (C).


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81. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, p. 5 (S), Enclosure to Memo, CJS to SecDef, 14 May 1962, Visit to Southeast Asia.

82. Vietnam: Free-World Challenge in Southeast Asia (Department of State Publication 7333), pp. 16-17.


85. Ibid.


88. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, op. cit., p. 2.

89. Bureau of Intelligence and Research, RFE-27, 18 June 1962, op. cit.

90. MAAG Lessons Learned Nr. 19, op. cit.

91. COMUSAVN Message DA TH 262596, 8 September 1962, Province Rehabilitation Program (S).

92. MAAG, Lessons Learned Nr. 19, op. cit.


95. Eilerman, To Move & Hacion, op. cit., p. 453.

96. Visit to Southeast Asia by the Secretary of Defense, 8-11 May 1962, op. cit.

97. Memo, ASD/ISA to SecDef, 9 August 1962, Funding of Strategic Hamlet Kits, Vietnam.

98. See, for example, JCS: 734-52, 22 September 1952, Funding of Strategic Hamlet Kits, Vietnam.
99. CIA Memo for SecDef, 28 September 1962 (S).

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IV. B. 3.

THE ADVISORY BUILD-UP, 1961-67
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8a. Memo, SecDef to JCS, 26 October 1954 (TS).


11. See memo, Director CIA for SecState, 16 December 1955 (S).


14. The President's Committee to Study the United States Military Assistance Program, Report, Volume II, passim.

15. Ibid., Volume III (Classified Studies), Study No. 4 by the Committee Staff, "Mirror Imaging," pp. 115-147.

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16. Ibid., Volume III (Classified Studies), Study No. 2 by the Institute
   for Defense Analyses, "The Role of the Military in Promoting Internal

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   Army Aspects of the Military Assistance Program in Vietnam (S), p. 10.


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22. Ibid., p. 5.

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33. RFE-3, 1 November 1961, op. cit., p. 4; Briefing Paper, n.d., The
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49. NSAM 52, 11 May 1961.
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51. Ibid.
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54. Ltr, President Diem to President Kennedy, 9 June 1961. (Emphasis added.)
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60. SNIE 10-3-61, 10 October 1961, Probable Communist Reactions to Certain SEATO Undertakings in South Vietnam (TS)


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142. JCS message 0936, 16 March 1965 (TS)
143. COMUSMACV Message 1566, 21 March 1965 (TS).

144. JCS Message, 142228Z May 1965.


146. Msg, CINCPAC to JCS 3027, 260332Z May 1965 (TS).


149. Memo, Vincent Puritano to James P. Grant, "Joint Provincial Sign-Off Authority," with attachment, 25 Sep 65. (Both officials were with AID, Vietnam Section.)

150. State Department message 1039, October 16, 1965; Saigon message 1324, October 18, 1965.


152. Puritano Memorandum, op.cit.


158. Memo, SecDef for the President, 20 July 1965.

159. Draft Memo, SecDef for the President, 3 November 1965 (TS).

160. 1964 MACV Command History, p. 68.


164. 1965 MACV Command History, p. 245; Memo, MACJ3, Rural Construction Cadre (S).

165. Memo, Ambassador Lodge to General Lansdale, 15 December 1965, Roles of Different U.S. Agencies in the Three Phases of Rural Reconstruction, i.e., Military Clearing, Pacification, and Development (C); quoted in 1965 MACV Command History, pp. 245-46.

166. Memo, Robert W. Komor, 7 August 1966, Giving a New Thrust to Pacification. (Emphasis in original.)

167. A similar plan was, however, espoused by an influential study by a select group of officers on the Department of the Army General Staff. See Study, Program for the Pacification and Long-Term Development of South Vietnam (Short Title: PROVN), March 1966. Cited hereafter as PROVN Study.

168. Lodge's definitions do not agree with this explanation but it is a fair oversimplification of his views.


170. MajGen JCF Tillson (J-3, MACV), Briefing to Mission Council, 8 Aug 66.


172. Msg, State to Lodge 83699, 12 November 1966 (Emphasis added.)


175. State Department message 1039, October 16, 1965; Saigon message 1324, October 18, 1965.


177. Puritano Memorandum, op. cit.


180. See, for example: Memo, SecDef for President, 20 July 1965; Draft Memo, SecDef for President, 3 November 1965.


183. Ibid., p. 67.


186. Ibid., p. XI-4.


188. Msg, Saigon to State 7113, 19 September 1967.


190. SEA Hamlet Evaluation System Data Book, through December 1967, pp. I-1 and I-4; OASD/SA, SEA Programs Directorate.


194. Msg, MACV to CINCPAC 15064, 7 May 1967.

195. Ibid.

196. Southeast Asia Statistical Tables, OASD/SA SEA Programs Directorate, Table 44A (as of January 1968).

197. Ibid.

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201. Embassy Saigon message 28095, For the President from Bunker, June 14, 1967 (S-NODIS).

202. Review and Analysis System for RVNAF Progress, MACV-J341, 16 Sep 67 (S).


204. ASD(SA) Alain Enthoven Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, 4 July 1967, Subject: Improvement in RVNAF Force Effectiveness (S).

205. Ibid., pp. 257-259.


207. MACV message 09101, Westmoreland sends, 18 Mar 67 (TS).

208. Ibid.

209. JCSM-530-67, 28 Sep 67; Subject: Increase in FY 1968 RVNAF Force Level, (S); contains a review of the year's actions to that date.


211. MAC-J311, Supplemental Data Sheet A, dated 22 Oct 67, Subject: MACV Recognized Advisory Requirements (U).


213. ASD(SA) Alain Enthoven Memorandum for the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Assistant Secretaries of Defense, 14 Aug 67, Subject: Southeast Asia Deployment Program #5 (TS); refers to SecDef decision memorandum, 10 Aug 67.


215. OASD(SA) Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, 30 Aug 67 (S-EYES ONLY).
216. Information in the paragraph is from "Information on MATs (Mobile Advisory Teams) and MALTs (Mobile Advisory Logistics Teams)," 8 May 68, working paper prepared by the ACoFS MA, MACV.

217. JCSM 530-67, 28 Sep 67, Subject: Increase in FY 68 RVNAP Force Level (S).

218. Secretary of Defense Memorandum for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 7 Oct 67, Subject: Increase in FY 68 RVNAP Force Level (S) and attached OASD(Sa) Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, 5 Oct 67 (S).