

DECLASSIFIED

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NSC/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002

By 6/2 Date 12/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 10, 1970

National Security Decision Memorandum 52

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report on the State of the War and
Vietnamization

The President has directed the submission to him of a Quarterly Report on the State of the War and Vietnamization. He has instructed that this report be prepared under the direction of the Vietnam Special Studies Group and that it represent the best obtainable analytical assessment of the war situation and Vietnamization progress.

The President has further directed that the analysis cover the following areas:

-- State of the Main Force War. (The state of U.S. and ARVN regular forces, U.S. support for GVN forces, U.S. troop withdrawals, and an analysis of the friendly main force situation by Corps area),

-- State of the Control War. (The pacification situation and prospects),

-- State of the Enemy's Capabilities and Enemy Strategy Alternatives.

The draft terms of reference for the Quarterly Report approved by the President are enclosed.


Henry A. Kissinger

Enclosure
cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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QUARTERLY OUTLINE REPORT ON STATE
OF THE WAR AND VIETNAMIZATION

I. State of the Main Force War

A. Enemy Main Forces

An assessment of the current strengths, capabilities, structure, and disposition of enemy main force units. For each Corps and for the country as a whole an analysis of the foregoing factors against past trends and an assessment of the significance of the current situation with regard to future enemy activity.

B. U.S. Main Forces

Current state of U.S. main force units, their strengths, composition, and deployment. An assessment of U.S. performance and effectiveness and the implications of the current U.S. role for planned troop withdrawals.

C. RVNAF Main Forces

-- Current strengths, dispositions, force composition, and vulnerabilities.

-- A trend analysis of RVNAF main force unit performance and effectiveness to include: force structure, (combat, combat support, combat service support) force readiness (manpower, training, logistics, intelligence, polwar/psyop), and operational performance (activity levels, operational effects, operational effectiveness).

-- A trend analysis to include the past and current status of programs to:

-- improve RVNAF leadership,

-- equip RVNAF main forces,

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- provide combat support and combat service support to RVNAF main force units,
- provide RVNAF with a logistics capability,
- provide RVNAF main forces with U.S. advisory support,
- improve RVNAF morale and performance.

II. State of the Control War

A. An analysis of the current and past control and security situations.

B. Evidence on the strength and durability of control as measured by:

- RF, PF, and PSDF strengths, kills, kill ratios, desertions, operations per contact, and weapons captured/weapons lost. Available support for territorial forces including air and artillery, medical evacuations, equipment (e.g., weapons, radios) and logistics support,

- significant economic development conditions including prices, production, and land reform,

- the political situation to include evidence on province, district, and village hamlet leadership, corruption, and political attitudes.

III. State of Enemy Capability and Enemy Strategy and Tactics

A. An analysis of enemy logistics and manpower infiltration, recruitment, enemy losses, and projected aggregate enemy capabilities.

B. An analysis of enemy documents and sources relating to and activities of the main force, local force, guerrilla, and VCI elements of the enemy's force structure.

C. An analysis of trends in the activities of the enemy to include types of incidents, attacks, and proselyting.

D. A summary analysis of the enemy's strategy drawing from the above and considering how the evidence on enemy capabilities, enemy activities, relates to specified enemy strategy options to include stepped up main force attacks, protracted war, and a political strategy of ceasefire, coalition or negotiations.