

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/Southern to Smith 09/06/2002

By *CGA* Date *02/14/07*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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February 14, 1972

National Security Decision Memorandum 152

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Herbicides in Vietnam and NSDM 141

The President has reviewed the Secretary of Defense's appeal, as set forth in his memorandum of December 3, 1971, for reconsideration of certain decisions in NSDM 141 regarding the Vietnamization of herbicide capabilities. The President has also reviewed the views of the Secretary of State as contained in his memorandum of February 4, 1972.

The President has decided that the U. S. will not make an open-ended commitment to supply additional stocks of herbicides to the GVN, but will encourage the GVN to establish alternate, commercial supply channels for herbicides fitting their requirements. However, in the event that additional stocks are required by the GVN prior to the establishment of an alternate supply channel, authority is hereby granted to resupply such herbicides. Such GVN requirements will be determined in conjunction with COMUSMACV and American Embassy Saigon under the guidelines of base and installation perimeter operations and limited operations for important lines of communication only. As the GVN establishes an alternate, commercial supply channel, the U. S. will establish its own system for the supply of herbicides used by the U. S. under the guidelines prescribed by NSDM 141.


When advising the GVN to establish an alternate, commercial supply channel, the U. S. will also inform them that it is prepared to provide that in-country equipment as clarified below. Given a requirement from the GVN, authority is hereby granted COMUSMACV and American Embassy Saigon to provide the helicopter spray systems presently possessed by U. S. forces in South Vietnam necessary to ensure a GVN capability for base and installation perimeter operations with the understanding that they be used for such operations only. (Given a

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requirement from the GVN, NSDM 141 already grants authority to provide the ground spray equipment presently possessed by U. S. forces in South Vietnam.)

There should be no stimulation of the GVN to acquire or develop herbicide capabilities other than mentioned herein.

The President has directed that instructions to the field, consistent with the directives in this memorandum, be prepared immediately for White House approval.



Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff