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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

JUL 16 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(International Security Affairs)

SUBJECT: Capability to Deal with Local Aggression in Vietnam

REFERENCES: Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary, subject:  
"U.S. Policy in the Event of a Renewal of Aggression  
in Vietnam", dated 16 September 1955; NSC 5602/1;  
Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary, subject:  
"Basic National Security Policy", dated 13 February  
1956; NSC Action No. 1522-c

1. At its meeting on 7 June 1956, the National Security Council took the following action with respect to the above subject (NSC Action No. 1571):

- a. Noted and discussed a presentation on U.S. capabilities, referred to in NSC 5501, to deal with local aggression in Vietnam in accordance with the provisions of current policy (NSC 5602/1). The presentation was made by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for the Department of Defense pursuant to NSC Action No. 1522-c.
- b. Noted the President's view that it would be desirable for appropriate U.S. military authorities:
  - (1) To encourage Vietnamese military planning for defense against external aggression along lines consistent with U.S. planning concepts based upon approved U.S. policy.
  - (2) To discreetly manifest in other ways U.S. interest in assisting Free Vietnam, in accordance with the Manila Pact, to defend itself against external aggression.

2. The action in paragraph 1-b above, as approved by the President, has subsequently been transmitted to the Secretary of Defense for appropriate implementation.

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SecDef. Cont. No. 15090

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