

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



SECRET

May 1 1956

Dear Mr. Secretary:

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I refer both to your letter to the Secretary dated December 13, 1955, on the subject of dispatching additional military training personnel to Viet-Nam, and to your letter to the Secretary dated January 31, 1956, bearing more specifically on the problem of recovering and maintaining MDAP-origin equipment in Viet-Nam.

As you are aware, our two Departments have been studying and discussing these related problems for several months. On February 25, 1956, during these discussions, the Department of State initiated negotiations with other governments principally concerned with a view to obtaining their acquiescence to our joint project of sending a Temporary Equipment Mission to Viet-Nam. These negotiations have now been favorably completed, leaving only the formal approval of the International Control Commission in Viet-Nam still to be obtained. We are now seeking this approval which we hope can be given in time for the first TERM elements to arrive in Saigon on May 9, the date mutually agreed upon for initial arrivals.

Meanwhile, with our concurrence your Department has begun implementation of this project. Accordingly, it may be appropriate for me to elaborate the State Department's understanding of certain aspects of the TERM operation which are only briefly alluded to in the Joint State/Defense message to Saigon numbered State 3430, dated April 12, 1956, in which you concurred.

1. It is our understanding that the TERM operation has the double purpose of (a) supervising the recovery (identification, inventory and accounting control) and outshipment of excess MDAP equipment; and (b)

of assisting

The Honorable
Charles E. Wilson,
Secretary of Defense.

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