

SECRET

-2- 1151, December 4, 2PM, (SECTION TWO OF TWO) FROM SAIGON

6. DO ALL WE CAN GET DIEM TO ACCEPT BASIC PRINCIPLES SUGGESTED IN MAAG COUNTER-INSURGENCY PLAN, WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED SONNEST (SOME PARTS OF PLAN WHICH WITHIN U.S. AGREED POLICY DIRECTIVES HAVE BEEN URGED ON GVN WITH SOME SUCCESS).
7. CLARIFY INCONSISTENCIES IN TRANSFER CIVIL GUARD TO DOD IN ORDER THAT MAAG MAY START TRAINING ON LARGE SCALE SOONEST AND MAKE MAP EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE.
8. SINCE DIEM BELIEVES WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND SERIOUSNESS OF VC, THREAT AND HE SUSPECTS WE MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED REBELS, WE SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO SHIP SIX H-34 HELICOPTERS WHICH ARE NOT ONLY MOST URGENTLY NEEDED FIGHT VC EFFECTIVELY BUT WOULD REASSURE DIEM WE TRYING GIVE EFFECTIVE HELP.
9. SINCE IT FAR FROM CERTAIN DIEM WILL INTRODUCE SUFFICIENTLY APPEALING AND EFFECTIVE NEW PROGRAMS AND USE HIS PRESENT SECURITY FORCES IN MOST EFFICACIOUS MANNER, WE MUST FIND SUITABLE MEANS TO BRING PRESSURE ON HIM. AS I OUTLINED IN EMBTEL 1105 AS WELL AS IN MEMORANDUM THIS SUBJECT (LETTER TO PARSONS NOV 8) I AM CONVINCED, EVEN IF WE EVENTUALLY SHOULD AGREE, THAT WE SHOULD NOT NOW ACCORD HIS REQUEST FOR 20,000 ADDITIONAL FORCE OR CONCUR IN HIS UNILATERAL ACTION TO RAISE FORCE LEVEL (CHIEF MAAG 1537 DEC 1 - COPY JCS). TO DO SO WITHOUT HIS HAVING RELAXED CONTROLS, INSTITUTED EFFECTIVE REFORMS AND HAVING PERMITTED EFFICIENT USE PRESENT FORCES, WOULD NOT SAVE THE DAY FOR DIEM BUT MIGHT EVEN INDUCE HIM FOLLOW HIS INSTINCT TO RELY PRIMARILY ON USE OF FORCE BOTH TO CONTROL POPULATION AND FIGHT VC. WHILE I AM NOT FULLY CONVINCED NEED FOR EXTRA 20,000 MEN, I WOULD BE WILLING TO CONCUR IN SUCH ADDITION IF CAREFUL STUDY BY ALL CONCERNED CONCURRED IN THIS RECOMMENDATION. (MAAG VIEWS ON URGENT NEED FOR 20,000 INCREASE FORWARDED PARSONS MY LETTER NOV 30TH) THEREFORE, SUGGESTED THIS MATTER BE CAREFULLY STUDIED WASHINGTON AND IF FINAL RECOMMENDATION IS FAVORABLE IT BE KEPT SECRET AS ACHIEVING THE GOAL TO GRANT DIEM PROVIDED HE HAS TAKEN OTHER NECESSARY STEPS WHICH ARE TO ME MUCH MORE FUNDAMENTAL, AND PROVIDED HE NEEDS EXTRA FORCE AFTER TAKING MORE ESSENTIAL STEPS. IF, FOR INSTANCE, AT THE BEGINNING NEXT YEAR HE HAS TAKEN EFFECTIVE STEPS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED ABOVE AND IT IS STILL CONSIDERED HE NEEDS INCREASED

SECRET