

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Washington, D.C. 20301

JCSM-97-59

19 Mar 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Airfields for Vietnam (U)

1. Reference is made to the memorandum by the Joint Chief of Staff, for the Secretary of Defense, dated 18 December 1958, subject, "Jet Aircraft for Vietnam (U)."

2. Subparagraph 4 b of the referenced memorandum states that it is deemed advisable to request the International Cooperation Administration to include Cap St Jacques in addition to Tan Son Nhut in their program for airfield improvement, under the guise of commercial aviation.

3. Subsequent review by CINCPAC and the Joint Chiefs of Staff indicates that Tourane would be preferable to Cap St Jacques. Tourane's advantages outweigh its relative vulnerability. Its forward position would be operationally useful. Its improvement would require less money and time than would Cap St Jacques. Tourane's position on the Bangkok-Hong Kong air route lends plausibility to its development as a commercial jet facility.

4. It is recommended that Tourane be substituted for Cap St Jacques in the International Cooperation Administration's improvement program as the proposed second jet facility for Vietnam.

5. It is requested that you advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff of your position and the views of the Department of State on this matter, in order that CINCPAC may, in turn, be informed.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

N. F. TWINING,
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff