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of assisting in the improvement of Vietnamese logistical capabilities.

The TERM operation was originally conceived to implement the decision of the Secretary of State, dated February 3, 1956, to explore with other governments concerned the possibility of sending additional military personnel to Viet-Nam to assist in the recovery of our equipment. It has been understood between our two Departments from the beginning of discussions on that problem that if significant amounts of this equipment are inventoried, much of it including equipment nominally turned over to the Vietnamese forces, will be shipped out of Viet-Nam. It is on the basis of this understanding that the Department of State obtained the acquiescence of other governments concerned, the rationale for their acceptance being that the TERM operation will not contribute to the growth of the military potential in the zone south of the 17th parallel.

While it is understood, therefore, that TERM personnel will perform certain functions of training which are inseparable from their tasks of recovering and maintaining United States-origin equipment in Viet-Nam, such functions of training should in no case be allowed to become the single or even the primary duty of TERM (as distinguished from MAAG) personnel. Moreover, a substantial quantity of the equipment recovered in Viet-Nam should be shipped out of the country, so as to implement in good faith the promises made to other governments whose benevolent acquiescence to the operation we have obtained.

2. In regard to the clothing of the military personnel involved, and as indicated in our joint message of April 12, 1956, to Saigon this question is being left to the discretion of Chief MAAG, Chief TERM, and the American Ambassador at Saigon. However, I wish to indicate again our very strong desire that owing to the political and psychological factors involved, civilian clothing be used whenever possible by TERM personnel upon their arrival in and departure from Viet-Nam, as well as during their period of assignment in the country.

3. With respect to administrative support services for TERM, it is our understanding that the appropriate personnel and funds will be provided by the Department of Defense for the full administrative backstopping of the group. In this connection, it has been our view for some time now that steps should be taken to have the MAAG mission administratively supported by military personnel. The Embassy at Saigon has had increasing

difficulty

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