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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 325

TO: THE DIRECTOR, U. S. INFORMATION AGENCY

1. I have reviewed your memorandum of March 16 on the informational and psychological warfare programs in South Vietnam. With the exception noted in paragraph 5, I hereby give my general approval to the rapid and effective execution of the improvements you propose. This approval is subject to review and concurrence by Ambassador Taylor. I am sending the Ambassador a private message to indicate my own interest in the strongest possible information and psychological warfare program, but I shall also inform him that I do not wish to override his judgment on the effectiveness of particular programs and particular patterns of administration.

2. By copy of this memorandum I request the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development to give all possible support to an intensified information and psychological warfare program along the lines developed in your report.

3. By copy of this memorandum I request the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to review with you and as necessary with other agencies the financial implications of such an intensified program and to make his recommendation to me as to the best way of meeting any additional costs.

4. Meanwhile, you are directed to proceed with all necessary actions on the firm understanding that it is my fixed policy that no worthwhile undertaking shall be inhibited or delayed in any way by financial restrictions. We can and will find the resources we need for all good programs in Vietnam.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 96-300
By nlj, NARA Date 5-5-98

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5. This memorandum does not cover the problem of Viet Cong defectors discussed in paragraphs 11 and 13 of your memorandum. I agree that this problem is of high importance, but I do not at present wish to make a judgment on the best arrangements for U. S. action to deal with it.

Copies to:

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Administrator of the Agency for International
Development
The Director of the Bureau of the Budget