

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 18, 1962

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 124

TO: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Attorney General  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Administrator, Agency for International Development  
The Director, United States Information Agency  
The Military Representative of the President  
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Special Group (Counter-Insurgency)

To assure unity of effort and the use of all available resources with maximum effectiveness in preventing and resisting subversive insurgency and related forms of indirect aggression in friendly countries, a Special Group (Counter-insurgency) is established consisting of the following members:

Military Representatives of the President, Chairman  
The Attorney General  
Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Special Assistant to the President for National Security  
Affairs  
Administrator, Agency for International Development  
Director, United States Information Agency

On invitation:

Other department and agency representatives, as deemed necessary

The functions of the Special Group (C.I.) will be as follows:

a. To insure proper recognition throughout the U. S. Government that subversive insurgency ("wars of liberation") is a major form of politico-military conflict equal in importance to conventional warfare.

b. To insure that such recognition is reflected in the organization, training, equipment and doctrine of the U.S. Armed Forces and other U.S. agencies abroad and in the political, economic, intelligence, military aid and informational programs conducted abroad by State, Defense, AID, USIA and CIA. Particular attention will be paid the special training of personnel prior to assignment to MAAG's and to Embassy staffs in countries where counter-insurgency problems exist or may arise.

c. To keep under review the adequacy of U.S. resources to deal with actual or potential situations of insurgency or indirect aggression, making timely recommendation of measures to apply, increase or adjust these resources to meet anticipated requirements.

d. To insure the development of adequate interdepartmental programs aimed at preventing or defeating subversive insurgency and indirect aggression in countries and regions specifically assigned to the Special Group (C. I.) by the President, and to resolve any interdepartmental problems which might impede their implementation.

In performing the above functions, the members of the Special Group (C.I.) will act on behalf of their respective departments and agencies, and will depend for staff support upon their own staffs, and upon such country or regional interdepartmental task forces (normally chaired by a State Department Assistant Secretary) as may be established. The Group will confine itself to establishing broad lines of counter-insurgency policy, subject to my direction and decision as appropriate, insuring a coordinated and unified approach to regional or country programs, and verifying progress in implementation thereof. It will also undertake promptly to make decisions on interdepartmental issues arising out of such programs.

The critical areas initially assigned to the Special Group (C. I.) pursuant to paragraph d of this memorandum are set forth in the attached annex.

Attachment

Hereby assign to the cognizance of the Special Group (Counter-Insurgency) the following countries:

- Laos
- South Viet-Nam
- Thailand.