

UNCLASSIFIED

PRUNING KNIFE STATUS REPORT NO. 3

JCS 11422/DTG 1523327 SEP 69

- 4. THE PRUNING KNIFE GROUP NOW NUMBERS EIGHT AND IS ENROUTE TO GLARK FROM HICKAM. GENERAL ELWOOD WHO HEADS THE PAC DELEGATION AND I HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH ADMIRAL MCCAIN THIS MORNING. WE HAVE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON METHOD OF OPERATION AT THIS POINT. I THINK OUR APPROACH IS SOUND. IT REMAINS TENTATIVE HOWEVER SUBJECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF SAIGON INPUTS.
- ** WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE PLANNING GROUP WILL DEVELOP A SOUND MILITARY CONCEPT OF ACTION NEEDED TO ACHIEVE US OBJECTIVES IN SEA BY FORCE OF ARMS. WE WILL THEN FIT VARIOUS ACTION INTO THIS CONCEPT INCLUDING AS MANY OF THOSE OUTLINED IN REF AS PRACTICABLE. OUR RATIONALE IS THIS!
- A. SIGNALS TO HANOI HAVE NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE IN THE PAST
 BECAUSE THEY WERE RECOGNIZED AS TRANSITORY ACTIONS THAT COULD BE
 ENDURED AND NOT AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF A CREDIBLE MILITARY CONCEPT
 BESIGNED TO REALIZE US OBJECTIVES BY FORCE OF ARMS.
- B. SIGNALS WHICH GAN BE IDENTIFIED AS PARTS OF A CREDIBLE CONCEPT WILL HAVE A LOGIC, HITHERTO LACKING, AND HENCE AN IMPROVED CHANCE FOR CONVINCING THE NVN THAT HE CANNOT PROFITABLY CONTINUE TO OPERATE AGAINST SVN. WHEN THE ENEMY EVALUATES THE TOTAL SIGNAL HE RECEIVES, MILITARILY, POLITICALLY, AND DOMESTICALLY, AS INDICATIVE OF FIRM RESOLVE AN EFFECTIVE SIGNAL WILL HAVE REACHED HANOI. THE PAUSES TO PERMIT REACTION TO SIGNALS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN A MANNER LEAST DAMAGING TO SHOCK AND MOMENTUM OF EFFORT. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER PAUSES WILL PROBABLY BE INDUCED

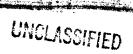


PERFORCE BY WEATHER.

- J. WITH AN AGREED CONCEPT AT WAND WE WILL THEN, SIMULTANEOUSLY, USING THE PRUNING KNIFE GROUP AND MACU/7TH AF/7TH FLEET ASSISTANCE, DEVELOP PLANS IN A MODULAR FASHION TO FLESH OUT THE GONCEPT. PLANS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE OR PARTS THEREOF WILL BE A BASIS FOR THIS.
- 4. MODULAR PLANS DEVELOPED IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT WILL BE REVIEWED, COORDINATED, AND VALIDATED BY THE PRUNING KNIFE GROUP AND FORWARDED TO YOU WITH MACY AND CINCPAC BEING FURNISHED COPIES FOR COMMENT/APPROVAL.
- 5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS APPROACH MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AT CERTAIN LEVELS BUT SUGGEST THAT A COMPLETELY SOUND AND AGREED MILITARY PROPOSAL SHOULD BE STATED CLEARLY AND SUPPORTED AS THE BASIC JCS PROPOSAL. WE WILL ALSO, AS A SEPARATE EFFORT, PREPARE A LIST OF SIGNALING ACTIONS MORE CLOSELY FOLLOWING LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF REF. THESE ACTIONS WILL BE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF FEASIBILITY AND DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY AND WILL OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE.

MED FOR COORDINATION OF THIS EFFORT WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE





INITIATIVES, THIRD COUNTRY REACTION ASSESSMENT WORLDWIDE, AND DOMESTIC REACTION. THESE LATTER THREE ISSUES WE, OBVIOUSLY, WILL NOT ADDRESS.

VERY RESPECTFULLY AND BEST REGARDS.

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