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GULF UP DOWN

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

19 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR General George S. Brown
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

The attached request for information from the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities is forwarded for preparation of an appropriate response. Please return your response by 29 August 1975 as an attachment to a draft letter of transmittal to the Committee for my signature and coordinate your response with NSA.

Thomas K. Latimer
Thomas K. Latimer
Vice Special Assistant

Attachment

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P.L. 86-36

PROPERTY OF NSA, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
ON LOAN TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

TELECOPIER ITEM
DTG: 15 1445
FROM: D9
DIST: Ms. [redacted]

Suspense: 26 August
Cdr [redacted]
Special Ops Div, J3

TONKIN GULF INQUIRY

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What key individuals were involved in planning the 34-A and DE SOTO programs? What provisions were there for coordination of specific covert operations and intelligence collection missions, if any?

2. What was the role of NSA in the DE SOTO patrols? Was the special communications contingent which reported aboard the USS Maddox on 30 July 1964 a "department" (completely under jurisdiction of Capt. Herrick) or a "detachment" (with separate reporting channels to the Naval Security Group and/or NSA)?

3. How did Operation SHRIMPBACK affect development of OPLAN 34-A? What form did CIA participation in MAC/SOG take? Was MAC/SOG informed of the schedule and patrol routes of DE SOTO patrols?

4. What were coordination procedures between CIA and military personnel in the execution of 34-A actions? Who were the action officers in Saigon and Danang for the 34-A operations of 30 July 1964 (attacks on Hon Nieu and Hon Me islands) and 3 August 1964 (bombardment of Kien River estuary and Vinh Sonh radar installation)?

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GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO
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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE TO
STUDY GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH
RESPECT TO INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 21, 94TH CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 8, 1975

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Secretary of Defense
3E880
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Schlesinger:

The Select Committee is investigating the relation of U.S. covert operations and intelligence collection to the Gulf of Tonkin incidents of August 1964. We are particularly interested in the planning and coordination of "34-A" operations and DE 2000 patrols, and the general command and control procedures for Southeast Asia covert operations.

Attached is a more detailed description of the Committee's questions and a document request. Your assistance in this matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frank Church

Frank Church

Attachments

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PROPERTY OF NSA, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE,
ON LOAN TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE TO STUDY
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

Document Request

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INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

NSA25X3

1. The complete classified version of the DOD study, "United States-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967" (publicly known as the Pentagon Papers).

2. The IDA/WSEG study "Command and Control of the Gulf of Tonkin Incidents of 4 August 1964," by John Ponturo.

3. CINCPAC OPLAN 34-63 (submitted September 1963, concerning covert operations in Southeast Asia).

4. OPLAN 34-A (annex developed by MACV and [redacted], submitted December 1963).

5. Minutes from the Vietnam policy conference at Honolulu, 20 November 1963, and/or any reports or documents issuing from the conference which pertain to discussion of OPLAN 34-63.

6. The Krulak Committee Report of 2 January 1964 which recommended authorization of certain activities from OPLAN 34-A.

7. Any minutes, reports, or documents mentioning 34-A operations, DE SOTO patrols, or Operation SWITCHBACK from the office of the Special Assistant to the JCS for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities (SACSA), for the period 1 September 1963 - 30 December 1964.

8. Any directives to COMUSMACV from DOD, and/or reports from COMUSMACV to DOD, concerning Operation SWITCHBACK (which occurred in late 1963 or early 1964, and involved transfer of covert action programs in Vietnam [redacted]

9. Directives or reports concerning coordination between MACV and COMSEVENTHFLT on the matter of DE SOTO patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, especially the patrol of USS Maddox which began 31 July 1964 (TG 72, and TG 72.1).

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NSA 10. Any internal NSA directives, reports, or documents concerning NSA's role or interest in DE SOTO patrols of 1964, especially the Maddox patrol of 31 July.

NSA 11. Mission directives to Lt. [redacted] USNR (head of the USS Maddox' special communications contingent during the patrol of 31 July 1964) from Naval Security Group, [redacted] and/or from NSA.

12. CINCPACFLT message 021104Z, August 1964 (to CTG 72.1).

13. Detailed organization charts of the Studies and Observations Group (MAC/SOG) under COMUSMACV from 1963-65, and names of key personnel in MAC/SOG during that period.