

ORIG: George Carver 3.5(c)
UNIT: SAVA
EXT: []
DATE: 4 February 1978

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CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

BY: 79 PER SOP FE 22

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CONF: ~~SAVA~~ RID COPY

INFO: FILE . VC . DCI, DDCI, C/FES, 3.5(c)

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(classification)

(date and time filed)

(office) (reference number) (pics)

FEB 5 009 275Z
BAG GWA CJS TAT
CITE DIRECTOR
JDJ JFR DNB SAA

TO: []
PRIORITY SAIGON
[]

(1) HGB BF MEE TAW LKP
Station's views of Task Force idea established.
* to deal with current crisis.

1. TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE STATION (BOTH SAIGON AND RO/C) REPORTING WELL RECEIVED, EXTENSIVELY USED AND HIGHLY PRAISED ALL OVER WASHINGTON. CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE, BUT KEEP IT UP.

2. AS YOU OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZE (PER REF PARA 6) THERE IS CRITICAL, URGENT NEED HERE FOR REPORTING ON POPULAR REACTIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD SITUATION, VC AND GVN IN SAIGON, IN OTHER URBAN CENTERS AND IN COUNTRY SIDE. WE NEED ALL AVAILABLE FACTS, OF COURSE, BUT ALSO WANT YOUR ASSESSMENT AND FINGERTIP FEELINGS.

3. REF MOST TIMELY. WE HAVE READ TRAFFIC IT CITES. [] WAS IN PART FULL OUT FROM LONG [] HABIB DISCUSSION ON 3 FEBRUARY. WE IN HEADQUARTERS FEEL (SOMEWHAT MORE

(CONTINUED...)

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CITE DIRECTOR

TO

STRONGLY THAN OUR DEPARTMENT COLLEAGUES) THAT CURRENT CRISIS PUTS GVN AT CRITICAL, INDEED CRUCIAL, FORK IN POLITICAL ROAD. DYNAMIC, GALVANIC PSYWAR AND R OPAGANDA MOVES BACKED UP ASAP BY SOLID, SUBSTANTIVE ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS CAN TURN RECENT EVENTS TO GREAT ADVANTAGE. PROCRASTINATION, SQUABBLING AND BUSINESS AS USUAL RESPONSE TO RECENT EVENTS CAN SWIFTLY MAKE POLITICAL CANCER IRREMEADIABLY TERMINAL. PRESENT POPULAR REACTION BOUND TO CONTAIN LARGE ELEMENTS OF CATAONIC SHOCK. WHAT GVN DOES (OR DOES NOT DO) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ IN INITIAL HOURS AND DAYS WHEN POPULACE EMERGES FROM SHOCK MAY WELL DETERMINE GVN'S ULTIMATE VICTORY OR DEFEAT.

4. IN LINE ABOVE, URGENTLY REQUEST YOUR BEST THOUGHTS ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE -- BOTH IMMEDIATELY AND IN NEAR TERM FUTURE -- AND WHO ^{IN GVN} NEEDS TO BE GIVEN WHAT ROLES (EITHER FOR SYMBOLIC OR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS) IF THESE TASKS ARE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. PLEASE REPORT INITIALLY IN ASSOLUTE FRANKNESS IN THE PRIVACY OF THIS CHANNEL BUT ~~XXXXX~~ TRY TO

(CONTINUED...)

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CITE DIRECTOR

[Redacted]

TO

INDICATE (WHERE POSSIBLE) THE SUGGESTIONS YOU THINK EMBASSY OR MACV MIGHT ENDORSE AND THOSE EMBASSY OR MACV MIGHT RESIST. PLEASE MAKE YOUR IDEAS AS CONCRETE AS POSSIBLE AND, WHILE INDICATING ~~RK~~ POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION ~~EXXX~~ [Redacted] DO NOT SCRUB ANY PROPOSAL YOU BELIEVE COULD REALLY IMPROVE THE SITUATION. RECEIPT OF YOUR BEST THOUGHTS BY 1200, 5 FEBRUARY WASHINGTON TIME WILL GIVE US A VALUABLE ASSIST IN SOME HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD HERE MONDAY EVENING.

3.3(h)(2)

VNO

[Redacted]

3.5(c)

3.5(c)

[Redacted]

George A. Carver, Jr.

DCI/SAVA

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