Station's views of Task Force idea established.

1. TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE STATION (BOTH SAIGON AND ROJ/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 FALL OUT FROM LONG HABIB DISCUSSION ON 3 FEBRUARY. WE IN HEADQUARTERS FEEL (SOMewhat more

(CONTINUED...)
STONGLY THAN OUR DEPARTMENT COLLEAGUES) THAT CURRENT
CRISIS PUTS GVN AT CRITICAL, INDEED CRUCIAL, FORK IN POLITICAL
ROAD. DYNAMIC, GALVANIC PSYWAR AND PROPAGANDA 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 IRREMEDEABLY TERMINAL. PRESENT POPULAR
REACTION BOUND TO CONTAIN LARGE ELEMENTS OF CATATONIC SHOCK,
WHAT GVN DOES (OR DOES NOT DO) IN INITIAL HOURS
AND DAYS WHEN POPULACE EMERGES FROM SHOCK MAY WELL DETER-
MINE GVN'S ULTIMATE VICTORY OR DEFEAT.

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

(CONTINUED...)
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 RE: POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION xxxxx, 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.

George A. Carver, Jr.
DCI/SAVA