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#4	R.W. Komer for Bill Moyers <i>open 9-15-95 NLJ</i> secret 1 p <i>NSF</i> <i>(dup. of # 48, Files of Komer, Chrono: 3/21-3/1/66, Bx1)</i>	94-255 3/28/66	A

FILE LOCATION

National Security File, NSAM File, NSAM 343

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~~SECRET~~

March 28, 1966

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 343

MEMORANDUM TO:

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
THE ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
THE DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

In the Declaration of Honolulu I renewed our pledge of common commitment with the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to defense against aggression, to the work of social revolution, to the goal of free self-government, to the attack on hunger, ignorance and disease, and to the unending quest for peace. Before the Honolulu Conference and since, I have stressed repeatedly that the war on human misery and want is as fundamental to the successful resolution of the Vietnam conflict as are our military operations to ward off aggression. In recent weeks I have asked those Departments of the Government with special competence in our continuing attack on hunger, ignorance and disease to bring their resources to bear in Vietnam. I have expressed my special interest in the progress of these new initiatives and the effective marshalling of all governmental resources and programs being brought to bear in the civil sector of our commitments in Vietnam.

In my view it is essential to designate a specific focal point for the direction, coordination and supervision in Washington of U.S. non-military programs for peaceful construction relating to Vietnam. I have accordingly designated Mr. Robert W. Komer as Special Assistant to me for carrying out this responsibility.

DECLASSIFIED
NSC 7-25-80 letter
By DCH/pe-JH/JP NARS, Date 10-20-83

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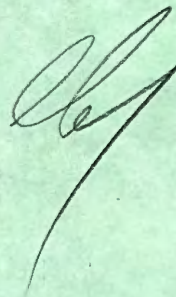
- 2 -

I have charged him and his deputy, Ambassador William Leonhart, to assure that adequate plans are prepared and coordinated covering all aspects of such programs and that they are promptly and effectively carried out. This responsibility will include the mobilization of U.S. military resources in support of such programs. He will also assure that the Rural Construction/Pacification Program is properly coordinated with the programs for combat force employment and military operations.

His functions will include ensuring full and timely support of the U.S. Mission in Saigon on matters within his purview. In accordance with established procedures, any instructions to the U.S. Mission in Saigon will be issued through the Secretary of State.

In carrying out these duties, I want him to act in close and constant liaison with the heads of appropriate departments and agencies, and to draw on them for such administrative and other support as he may need. In addition to working closely with the addressee Cabinet officers he will have direct access to me at all times.

Those CIA activities related solely to intelligence collection are not affected by this NSAM.



LBJ:R WK:mm

SECRET

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March 28, 1966

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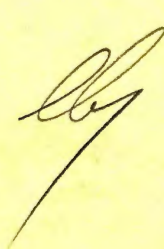
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LBJ:R WK:mm

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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March 28, 1966

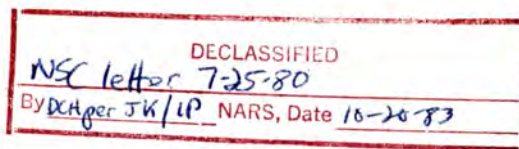
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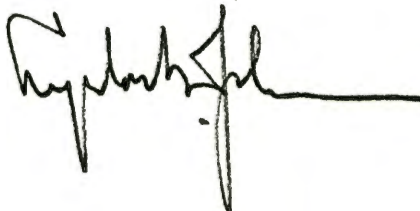
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Komer
Johnson
NSC files
Sen. Taylor
Hillman, 4/1
* Komer, 6/21, 8/19
Sen Taylor (Hillman) 5/16/67

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March 28, 1966
Monday, 7:30 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Joe Califano and now Bill Moyers have finally worn down Secretary Rusk and others in State who wanted to fit the Vietnam job to their conception. As you know McNamara, Gaud and Raborn found no trouble whatsoever with the directive. Bill says that the attached draft is agreed with the Secretary of State, and has sent it to me to submit to you for signature. I am quite satisfied with it, as it leaves me a free hand to decide how much I should get in to actual operations as opposed to acting as a high-level expeditor. I simply see no point in deciding this issue until after I have a better feel for the real job that needs to be done.

The only items that have been sacrificed are specific authority for direct communication with Saigon (which I can manage anyway) and the clause about bringing to you any problems that cannot be resolved directly with the departments. Since I can do so in any case, I'll weep no tears over the absence of this specific injunction.

Signature recommended.

R. W. Komer

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DECLASS
Authority NLJ84-13
By DLK, NARA, Date 4-11-90

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4
March 28, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MOYERS

Bill:

Here are my suggested changes in my directive:

Only the first (first paragraph, page 2) is critical. Essentially, I should not be charged with responsibility for "preparation" of plans and programs, but with making mighty sure that such plans and programs are prepared. As you can see, this is the difference between an operating responsibility which might be construed to require me to build a big empire and an overseer's responsibility which is that of making the appropriate agencies do the legwork right. In fact, I doubt that SecState really had in mind shifting to me the actual operating responsibility. If he did, let's fox him.

The second change (second paragraph, page 2) is less essential. I would strongly prefer amending the second sentence to indicate that "instructions" should go out through established channels. (I can then use this to argue that I am allowed my own "communication" so long as I am not giving orders.) The added last sentence is even less essential, especially if I am backed on the above point. It merely makes explicit what is left implicit. Once again I doubt that I have a real argument with Rusk, since Alex Johnson and I had long since agreed that orders would go out through State channels but no one would object if I wanted to write or talk directed with Lodge or Porter.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NEJ 94-255
By WJP, NARA, Date 8-4-95

Rf
R. W. Komer

*Will redone NSAM in final to give
you an idea of how changes look.*

~~SECRET~~

March 28, 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR BEN REID

FROM: Bill Moyers

The White House has accepted in the attached NASM the changes proposed by the Department of State last week, with modifications at two points:

1. On page two, paragraph one, we have amended the proposed language in order not to accentuate the operational aspects of Mr. Komer's role.
2. In the second paragraph on page two, we have spelled out with very precise language the President's feeling that instructions to the U. S. Mission in Saigon should be issued through the Secretary of State.

The President is prepared to sign off on the NASM after I hear back from you.

EYES ONLY

March 24, 1966

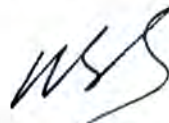
MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Joseph Califano
The White House

In Dave's absence I have gone over your draft of the charter for Bob Komer's new job.

It looks good to me. I feel strongly that something of this sort should be issued.

One question occurs to me. There has just been set up under the Secretary of State the Senior Inter-departmental Group (SIG) and four regional sub-groups to coordinate our overseas activities. I take it that Komer's authority is clearly intended to transcend that of the SIG insofar as Vietnam is concerned. Need mention be made of this in the memorandum or do you think it is clear?

One other minor point. I would include the Secretary of Treasury as an addressee. Vietnam and the balance of payments have collided before now and they may well do so again.



William S. Gaud
Acting Administrator

EYES ONLY

RECEIVED
JOE CALIFANO, JR.

1966 MAR 24 PM 12 12

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EYES ONLY

March 24, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Joseph Califano
The White House

I was not able to discuss the Komer charter with Rud Poats before 12 o'clock because he was testifying on the Hill. I have now been over it with him.

He tells me that a good deal of time was spent at the Warrenton meeting on discussing this same general question with respect to Bill Porter's job in Vietnam. One of the most difficult ^{over} problems was to make sure that Porter had an adequate say ~~of~~ those military programs (such as military construction, for example), which bear on, and compete for resources with, reconstruction activities.

After thinking it over I have made a couple of changes on page 2 to try to strengthen the memorandum in this respect. Attached is a copy of my suggestions.



William S. Gaud
Acting Administrator

Attachment

EYES ONLY

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JOE CALIFANO, JR.

1966 MAR 24 PM 4 08

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NSC 7-15-80
By DLH, NARA, Date 4-11-90

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and programs being brought to bear in the civil sector of our commitments in Vietnam.

✓ In my view it is essential to designate a specific focal point for the direction, coordination and supervision in Washington of U.S. programs carried out within Vietnam, other than with respect to the conduct of ^{combat} military operations. I have accordingly designated Mr. Robert W. Komer as Special Assistant to me for carrying out this responsibility.

✓ I have charged him to assure that prompt and effective action is taken by all U.S. agencies to devise and carry out Vietnam civil programs, ^{including military activities} ~~covering all aspects of non-military activities~~ in Vietnam, ^{which have a significant impact on our civil programs and} ~~including the mobilization of U.S. military resources in support of~~ ^{such programs.} He will also assure that the Rural Construction/ Pacification Program and the programs for combat force employment and military operations are properly coordinated.

~~Another~~ of his functions will be to ensure full and timely support of the U.S. Mission in Saigon on matters within his purview. The U.S. Ambassador and Deputy Ambassador to Vietnam may communicate directly with the Special Assistant as required.

In carrying out these duties, I want him to act in close and constant liaison with the heads of appropriate departments and agencies, and

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