

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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26 February 1962

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. _____

1. The President has approved the following training objectives for officer grade personnel of the departments and agencies listed above who may have a role to play in counter-insurgency programs.

a. The Historical Background of Counter-Insurgency

Personnel of all grades will be required to study the history of subversive insurgency movements, past and present, in order to familiarize themselves with the nature of the problems and characteristics of Communist tactics and techniques as related to this particular aspect of Communist operations. This kind of background historical study will be offered throughout the school systems of the responsible departments and agencies, beginning at the junior level of instruction and carrying forward to the senior level.

b. Study of Departmental Tactics and Techniques to Counter Subversive Insurgency

Junior and middle grade officers will receive instructions in the tactics and techniques of their particular departments which have an application in combating subversive insurgency. This level of instruction will be found in the schools of the Armed Services at the company/field officer level. In the case of the CIA, this kind of instruction will be offered at appropriate training installations. The State Department will be responsible for organizing appropriate courses

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in this instructional area for its own officers and for representatives of AID and USIA. All schools of this category will make available spaces in agreed numbers for the cross-training of other U.S. agencies with a counter-insurgency responsibility.

c. Instruction in Counter-Insurgency Program Planning

Middle grade and senior officers will be offered special training to prepare them for command and staff positions involved in the planning and conduct of counter-insurgency programs. At this level the students will be made aware of the possible contributions of all departments, and of the need to combine the departmental assets into effective programs. This type of instruction will be given at the Staff College-War College level in the Armed Services. The State Department will organize such courses as may be necessary at the Foreign Service Institute for officials of State, AID and USIA. All schools of this category will make available spaces in agreed numbers for the cross-training of other U.S. agencies with a counter-insurgency responsibility.

d. Specialized Preparation for Service in Underdeveloped Areas Having Specific Counter-Insurgency Problems

There is an unfilled need to offer instruction to middle and senior grade officers (both military and civilian) who are about to occupy important posts in underdeveloped countries with special counter-insurgency problems. Such a school would establish general policy and doctrine in the counter-insurgency field and would offer area-oriented studies on problems of the underdeveloped world keyed to areas to which the students are being sent.

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e. Training of Foreign Nationals

It is in the interest of the U.S. to provide counter-insurgency training to selected foreign nationals, both in the U.S. and in their own countries. The emphasis should be placed on those countries with an actual or potential counter-insurgency problem. This training will be given in the following places:

(1) In U.S. facilities operated by DOD and CIA in which spaces are made available to foreigners.

(2) In special facilities operated by DOD and AID in Panama for the benefit of foreign nationals.

(3) In U.S. missions in countries with counter-insurgency programs.

2. It is desired that the Special Group (Counter-Insurgency) explore the possibility of organizing an area-oriented school (paragraph 1 d above) as a matter of urgency and develop appropriate recommendations. The Special Group (Counter-Insurgency) should also examine the possibility of setting up interim courses at the Foreign Service Institute and/or at the National War College to fill the gap during consideration of a new school.

3. It is desired that the addressees examine the counter-insurgency training which is currently offered in their departments and agencies, and to report by June 1, 1962 upon the adequacy with which it meets the training objectives above. If any deficiencies are determined to exist, the responsible department or agency will report its plan for correcting them.

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