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OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR  
COUNTERINSURGENCY AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

(b)(1)

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16 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Rules of Engagement/Support/BAW  
for OPLAN 34A MARDOP

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1. The basic directive in effect covering OPLAN 34A maritime forces is contained in a Joint State-Defense message cite number 1255, DTG 272238Z Oct 64. Pertinent quotes are as follows:

"... In this connection it should be clearly understood that, since 34A operations are (b)(1) they are not entitled to be characterized as "friendly" under the U.S. rules of engagement which have been promulgated for Southeast Asia and Laos."

"... In the Gulf of Tonkin, 34A operations in behalf of 34A forces should be the responsibility of the NVA and should include no U.S. support without prior approval from Washington."

2. The above instructions cover all 34A maritime forces involved in MARDOP. On 27 July 64, Depschler reported on 27 July the availability of 34A standby air support to 1st Fleet. This authority was extended to 200 1st Fleet on 29 Nov 64.

3. The current policy concerning 34A MARDOP is to 200 1st Fleet and 34A aircraft are to be 34A aircraft support 34A MARDOP.

Copy No. 2  
Case No. 97-F-0730  
T.S. No. 97-75-088  
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4. In summary 34A NINT operations are covered by standby US/RVN air support. All other operations fall in the category of covert "not friendly" and can only be supported by VNAF aircraft and RVN SAR forces.

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