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CONF NO.

JCS 2343/468-2

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28 October 1964

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

US SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (U)

The attached memorandum by the Secretary of Defense, dated 27 October 1964, subject as above, together with its enclosure, is referred to the SACSA for appropriate implementing action.

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JOINT STATE-DEFENSE MESSAGE

INFORMATION: MACV BANGKOK
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Consideration has been given to recommendations for the expansion of search and rescue (SAR) operations to cover OPLAN 34A operations and cross border operations into Laos by RVN forces.

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 US Rules of Engagement which have been promulgated for Southeast Asia and Laos.

In the event of a 34A aircraft being downed in Laos, SAR operations are authorized as determined in the discretion of the United States Ambassador to Laos using only in-country resources available to him. In such a case, the Ambassador could employ RLAF, Air America, and Bird and Sons assets (including those based Udorn, as necessary) but would not be authorized to include other United States resources (i.e. Yankee Team and USAF aircraft). The question of employing such identifiable US resources will be referred in each instance to Washington for decision.

In the Gulf of Tonkin, SAR operations in behalf of 34A forces should be the responsibility of the RVN and should include no US forces without prior approval from Washington.

A decision regarding SAR operations in behalf of RVN forces involved in possible cross-border operations into Laos is deferred for consideration until such time as it may be decided to proceed with such operations.

Approved:
15/6 *[Signature]*

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

27 OCT 1964

Your Reference:
JCSM 839-64

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: US Search and Rescue Operations - Southeast Asia

I have reviewed the recommendations* by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for expanding search and rescue (SAR) operations to cover OPLAN 34A operations and cross-border operations into Laos by RVN forces.

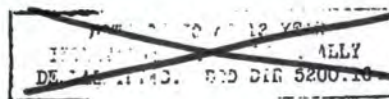
After careful consideration of the matter together with the Department of State, it was agreed to promulgate the attached guidance concerning the subject operations.

Robert S. McNamara

Enclosure

* Appendix to JCS 2343/468-1

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