OUTGOING TELEGRAM

Department of State

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON
DOD/ISA INFO: CINCPAC
JCS/SACSA
CIA
SUBJECT: Status of ICEX/SIDE Programs
AID
REFS: (a) COMUSMACV to CINCPAC DTG 020908 Z Jan 68
(b) SecDef to COMUSMACV DEF 4127
WH

FOR KOMER FROM LEONHART

1. PHOENIX (ICEX) directive quoted ref tel (a) represents major achievement in gaining GVN acceptance of your concept for better management of attack on VC infrastructure. All of us delighted with this major step forward and send sincerest congratulations you and your associates. Know you are pressing for prompt GVN follow-through in field coordination of actions against infrastructure implied in new organization.

2. Our understanding follows on present status ICEX and SIDE programs in terms Washington support:

(a) Have received and approved MACV JTD listing requirement for 114 ICEX field advisor spaces. Believe in-country personnel now
transferred to fill these spaces. Services are providing replacement fill basis
your requisitions.

(b) Have received and DOD in processing of approving MACV JTD
for CORDS staff which includes additional 12 ICEX spaces for a total of 126.
Anticipate approval within two weeks.

(c) DCSPER/OPO now determining availability of officers on list
furnished to you during your last visit. You will be notified soonest.

(d) Have not received confirmation your requirement for an additional
103 ICEX advisors.

(e) Agency's concerned proceeding on assumption there are now no
unsatisfied civilian personnel needs for ICEX.

4. SIDE (screening, interrogation and detention programs).

(a) AID/PSD has received and approved your request for 6 civilian
advisor spaces. Two spaces filled and 4 expected in next 60 days.

(b) Approval. Detention facilities funding for program you have in
mind balance this fiscal year awaits receipt definitive MACV request using
Form 1391 as required for processing through Service channel. Berkeley visit
has been most useful in expediting these arrangements and he will bring additional
details.

(c) Detention facilities expansion FY 69. Awaiting indication your
needs. We understand presently approved program (4 (b) above) packages detention facilities and relief for overcrowded general prison system and, with GVN prison construction now underway, will add net of about 4000 spaces to include both detainees and general prison population. Request earliest possible estimates for detainee facility expansion FY 69 and 70.

5. Appreciate confirmation foregoing as viewed your end. Let us know of anything further needing action here to support your requirements.

RUSK