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File - Dulles J
- CIA
- McLaughlin



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 22, 1955

General J. Lawton Collins
Special Representative of the President
of the United States in Viet Nam
American Embassy
Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear Joe:

In view of the importance I place upon working out with you the program for our covert operations in support of American policy in South Viet Nam, I have asked George Aurell, who is intimately familiar with the matter and who has my full confidence, to go to Saigon and discuss the matter with you. I felt this was particularly timely in view of the discussions incident to the Bangkok-SEATO Conference and the Manila conversations which may set the course of what we do in this area in meeting the Communist threat. Naturally, all the resources we can make available will be at your disposal for this purpose.



We all feel here that you have accomplished extraordinary results and have brought hope in a situation which seemed desperate a few months ago. We all sincerely regret that circumstances make it impossible for you to stay on longer, but understand fully the reasons therefor and wish to benefit during these coming weeks from your guidance in setting a course for the future.

If there are any matters which George Aurell feels he should refer back here, we will be at the other end of the line to send prompt replies, but I am anxious that matters should be settled on the spot and I am giving George Aurell full authority to take action in agreement with you.

With all best wishes and assurances of my fullest cooperation, I remain,

Faithfully yours,
Allen W. Dulles
Allen W. Dulles
Director

EXEMPT from Declass.
Per E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-4
Re-review - 1990

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