

2. He asked that a follow-up telegram be sent requesting the addressees not to act upon those suggestions in the telegram under reference.<sup>33</sup>

ROSS CAMPBELL

731.

DEA/50052-A-13-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au commissaire de la Commission internationale de surveillance  
et de contrôle pour le Vietnam*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Commissioner, International Commission for Supervision  
and Control for Vietnam*

TELEGRAM Y-305

Ottawa, May 26, 1961

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Your Tels 120 and 123 of May 20 and May 25.

Repeat for Information: Delhi, Washington, London, Laosdel Geneva (Priority), DM/DND, CCOS, CGS.

PROPOSED MAAG INCREASE

Grateful if you would put off discussion with Nolting until our examination of problem has been completed here. Hope to let you have further views early next week. In the meantime, we would be grateful to receive clarification from you of the references to authorized ceiling referred to in paragraph 1 of your telegram 120. When you refer to authorized ceiling, do you mean the figure of 888 which is the total for which the Indians produced a legal argument at the 572nd meeting of the Commission on April 13, 1960? If this is the figure you have in mind, we presume that the number of American military personnel in Vietnam is now more than a hundred in excess of the figure of 685 which was put forward as a target by the South Vietnamese in February 1960. You will recall that the Commission's letter to the South Vietnam noting their intentions made no reference to an authorized ceiling and referred simply to the requirement to carry out the necessary notification procedures under Article 16(f) and (g). Although the South Vietnamese were never, therefore, informed of an "authorized" ceiling, it is our view that the Commission would have no grounds for complaint if, without further communication to the Commission regarding total numbers, the strength of MAAG were increased to 888 provided of course the notification procedures under 16(f) and (g) continue to be carried out. Grateful if you would let us have the exact "latest figures" to which you refer and your comments on our interpretation of the situation in regard to a MAAG increase from 685 to 888.

<sup>33</sup>

Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Washington told previously by phone. Saigon sent tel. Y-305. [Auteur inconnu/Author unknown]