

2. In further informal discussion with Smith on June 2 he said USA had been advised by other interested friends not to raise matter with Indians at this time. He did not know whether this advice would be followed. We pointed out that Commission had already been seized of matter in general terms through General Giap's letter (your telegram 125 of May 27).† Given the considerable experience of South Vietnamese in handling general allegations of this nature from DRVN, a reply in general terms should not prove particularly difficult. On other hand, a formal notification from SVM similar to Vu Van Mau's letter of February 23, 1960³⁸ might well result in a Commission decision unfavourable to SVM since, if an intention to exceed figure of 888 were expressed, Indians would probably consider themselves bound by legal position they took in 1960. Even if figure were below 888, Indians might possibly retreat from their 1960 position. We drew attention to fact that Commission's letter of April 1960 on MAAG increase made no reference to an authorized ceiling. An influx of large numbers of MAAG personnel at any one time might, we said, also cause difficulties because of continuing problems in Commission regarding notification procedures under Article 16(f) and (g).

4. Smith informed us later on June 2 that Americans had asked South Vietnamese authorities not repeat not to write to Commission about their intentions at present time, nor to make a public announcement regarding an increase in MAAG. He had no further information as to whether Americans intended to discuss question with Indians at an early date.

5. In these discussions with Smith, we stressed that we appreciated seriousness of situation in South Vietnam which had prompted USA authorities to make their decision to increase MAAG. We made no attempt to dissuade them from going ahead with their plans. In your discussions with Nolting you should similarly avoid any such attempt and should speak along lines of paragraph 3 above.³⁹

6. Grateful for your comments on questions raised in our telegram Y-305 of May 26.

736.

DEA/50052-A-13-40

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

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

TELEGRAM 136

Saigon, June 5, 1961

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Our Tel 132 Jun 1.†

Repeat for Information: London, Washington, Laosdel Geneva, DM/DND, CGS from Ottawa.

PROPOSED MAAG INCREASE

In cocktail conversation June 2 with Brigadier Allan two junior USA Embassy officials indicated in strict confidence that increase of American personnel for South Vietnam may approximate one thousand. No repeat no hint given as to number of military involved.

³⁸ Voir/See Volume 27, document 544.

³⁹ Voir/See document 739.