

notification procedures vis-à-vis foreign military personnel. The letter contained no reference to any authorized ceiling even though it was apparent in the Commission that the Indians were thinking in terms of an upper limit of 888 (the total of French and United States instructors in 1954). The notification procedure mentioned is simply a requirement contained in the Cease Fire Agreement that a two-day advance notice on the arrivals and departures of individuals be provided for the information of the Commission's teams. In practice, this notification procedure has never worked very well (the fault lies with both the Commission and the South Vietnamese authorities) and the Commission, therefore, has no accurate figure of the exact number of foreign military personnel present in South Vietnam at any one time.

4. In this difficult situation, it might be useful to the Americans if we were to have an informal discussion with them to outline what we anticipate would happen in the Commission and to tell them what we can and cannot do to help them. If you agree, the following points might be orally conveyed to them:

(a) Regardless of what the South Vietnamese and U.S.A. authorities intend to do in practice, it would be unwise for the South Vietnamese Government formally to notify the Commission of its intentions;

(b) It would be better for the South Vietnamese to continue operating (for the time being at least) under the terms of the Commission's last letter which made no reference to an authorized ceiling;

(c) If the movement of MAAG personnel can be arranged in such a way as to result in figures below 888, this might pave the way for a favourable Commission decision if and when this question has to be discussed in that body. In this connection, there would probably be less difficulty in the Commission if the arrival of new MAAG personnel could be so arranged as to avoid a large influx at any one time.³⁶

G. I[IGNATIEFF]
for Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs

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Note de la Direction de l'Extrême-Orient
Memorandum by Far Eastern Division

SECRET

[Ottawa], June 14, 1961

U.S.A. PROPOSALS REGARDING MAAG INCREASE

Rufus Smith of the U.S. Embassy called on me the morning of May 30 to talk about the American proposals to increase MAAG. He said they were talking also to the U.K. and the French and proposed in a few days to talk to the Indians in New Delhi.³⁷ He said the Americans had discussed their proposed increases with the South Vietnamese and had their concurrence. The U.K. authorities had expressed sympathy and understanding with regard to American intentions but had asked some questions (on which Smith did not elaborate).

2. Discussing the MAAG increase in relation to the Geneva Agreements, Smith said that, threatened as it is by subversion, the South Vietnamese government is within its rights if it

³⁶ Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Approved by SSEA 31/5. R. C[ampbell]

³⁷ Voir/See *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963*, Vol. I (Washington: United States Government Printing Bureau, 1988), documents 63, 79.