EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS EXDIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET 040

PAGE 01 SAIGON 19374 090929Z

2

11
ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 W

033730

R 090430Z DEC 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8866

S E C R E T SAIGON 19374

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC

JOINT EMBASSY/MACV MESSAGE

SUBJECT: HERBICIDE POLICY REVIEW

REF: A. SAIGON 18557; B. STATE 188497

1. AFTER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT ON CROP DESTRUCTION PROGRAM PREPARED BY INTERAGENCY 203 COMMITTEE, GENERAL ABRAMS AND I HAVE DECIDED WE SHOULD INITIATE PHASE-OUT OF PROGRAM. GENERAL ABRAMS HAS TAKEN ACTION TO STOP FURTHER PROCUREMENT OR SHIPMENT OF "BLUE" AND "WHITE" HERBICIDES TO SVN. HERBICIDE STOCKS ON HAND WILL SUPPORT BASE PERIMETER DEFOLIATION AND

HIGHLY SELECTIVE CROP DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS UNTIL APPROXIMATELY MAY 1971.

2. FOLLOWING PRECEDENT SET WHEN DEFOLIATION PORTION OF HERBICIDE PROGRAM WAS SUSPENDED LAST SUMMER, WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CROP DESTRUCTION SUSPENSION. THIS COURSE OF ACTION WILL PERMIT A QUIET, ORDERLY, YET RAPID PHASE-OUT OF PROGRAM WHILE PRESERVING OUR OPTION TO REINSTITUTE PROGRAM IF NECESSARY IN FUTURE.

3. MACV WILL COORDINATE PHASE-OUT WITH JGS. BUNKER

NOTF BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY