

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSA/Soubers to Smith 09/06/2002

By RS Date 02/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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November 26, 1971

National Security Decision Memorandum 141

TO:                   The Secretary of State  
                          The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT:           Herbicides in Vietnam

The President has reviewed your memoranda, respectively dated September 30 and August 9, 1971, on the subject of Vietnamization of herbicide operations. The President has also reviewed the Acting Secretary of Defense's memorandum of November 3 regarding the use of herbicides by U.S. forces and the Secretary of State's views as contained in his memorandum of November 18, 1971.

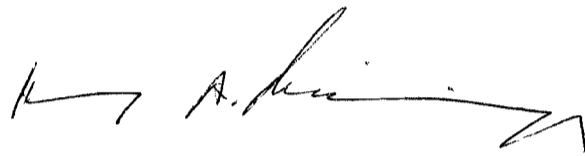
The President has made the following decisions pending his review of the current Geneva Protocol and NSSM 112 studies:

- Beyond December 1, 1971, American Embassy Saigon and COMUSMACV shall have joint authority to use herbicides around U.S. bases and U.S. installations when considered essential for the protection of U.S. forces in those cases where other means are not available or satisfactory because of the presence of mines, booby traps or tactical wire. Use will continue to be restricted to these limited base and installation perimeter operations conducted only by helicopter or ground-based spray equipment under the same regulations as apply in the United States.
- The U.S. will not take the initiative in any plans for the Vietnamization of herbicide capabilities or the provision of spray equipment and/or training and technical assistance. There should be no stimulation of the GVN to acquire or develop herbicide capabilities.
- In the event the GVN requests assistance from COMUSMACV and American Embassy Saigon, the U.S. shall provide only that ground spray equipment determined necessary by

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COMUSMACV and American Embassy Saigon and presently available and not required for use by U.S. forces in Vietnam for the GVN to conduct limited herbicide operations for perimeters of fire bases and installations consistent with the guidelines established herein for U.S. operations. UC-123 aircraft, related spray systems and equipment, or helicopter spray systems will not be provided.

- If any training or technical assistance is requested, the U.S. will limit such assistance to that necessary for the perimeter operations mentioned above.
- There will be no commitment by the U.S. Government to supply additional stocks of herbicides to the GVN.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff