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By LAR Date 02/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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April 5, 1972

National Security Study Memorandum 153

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Laotian Force Structure

The President has noted the several recent proposals for changes in the organization and composition of friendly forces in Laos for the purpose of increasing their efficiency. He has directed that a review of the Laotian force structure be made on an urgent basis.

The study should examine and appraise from the standpoint of effectiveness:

- each type of existing friendly ground force in Laos (e.g., FAR, FAN, SGU, etc.);
- the RLAF;
- the Laotian training program; and
- possible means of providing a Laotian national reserve including regular and irregular reserve concepts.

The study should assess these forces and programs in light of such factors as current and projected levels of enemy activity in Laos, the continuing realignment of U.S. and friendly forces in Southeast Asia, the impact of ethnic differences upon Laotian programs, the need to cope with the current military situation while proceeding with long-term force improvements, and U.S. costs. The study should also examine the relationships and command and control arrangements among the several types of friendly forces in Laos.

The study should present and evaluate alternative ways to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of friendly forces in Laos, and each alternative should specify the responsibilities of and means of coordination between the U.S. agencies involved.

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The President has directed that the study be accomplished by the Indo-China Ad Hoc Group. The study should be completed not later than June 15, 1972, for consideration by the Senior Review Group.


Henry A. Kissinger

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