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March 9, 1961

At a meeting in the Cabinet Room on March 9, 1961, on the general subject of Southeast Asia, the President authorized the following actions:

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- 1. An increase in MEOs from 3000 to 4000 by April 1. (CIA)
- 2. Defense Department to supply 16 H-34 helicopters to CIA for CAT use.

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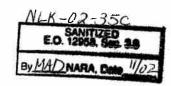
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Defense Department to select and [
helicopter pilots.

with CIA,

- 4. More maintenance and base support personnel for helicopters (300) (with consent of Thai government).
- 5. Defense Department to make available to CAT, appropriately marked, 4 C-130s. (On Okinawa or Taiwan)
  - 6. CIA to supply 4 C-130 crews. (U.S. civilian plus ChiNat.)
  - 7. CIA to make available 1 C-47 and 3 DC-4s, with crews.
- 8. In case of urgent supply requirements, USAF aircraft may resume delivery direct to Vientiane (C-130).
- 9. Negotiate with Sarit for immediate availability of up to 4 105mm batteries (Thai soldiers, equipment, and supplies).
- 10. PEO personnel will be augmented by approximately 100 officers and men, and the JUSMAAG personnel in Thailand by approximately 100.
- 11. Defense to make available 8 B-26s, plus necessary spares (at Okinawa).
  - 12. Defense Department to supply 16 sanitized B-26 crews to CIA.

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- 13. CIA is authorized to recruit non-U.S., non-ChiNat crews for B-26 and transport aircraft.
- 14. The Department of State will draft for the President's approval a message to Ambassador Brown giving the sense and mesning of the present steps.
- 15. General Boyle will go to work on Phoumi to lift the quality of FAL military leadership.
- 16. CIA is authorized to commit additional helicopters as obtained.
- 17. CIA is authorized to commit additional transport aircraft as obtained.