MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Phoenix/Phung Hoang and Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) Programs

1. (S) Reference is made to:

   a. SecArmy memorandum to SecDef, subject: "The Phoenix and Provincial Reconnaissance Unit Programs in Vietnam," dated 20 October 1969 (JCS 2472/547), which expressed concern over formal review of these two programs.

   b. CJCS 13197, DTG 232255Z Oct 69, which requested views from the field on subject programs.

   c. The following responses to reference b:

      (1) MAC 14145, DTG 311116Z Oct 69
      (2) MAC 14256, DTG 030845Z Oct 69
      (3) CINCPAC 130407Z Nov 69

   d. COMUSMACV 65930, DTG 290233Z Nov 69 which gave Phung Hoang operational results for October.

   e. Memorandum from the Secretary of Defense to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, subject: Evaluation of US Involvement in the Provincial Reconnaissance Unit Program in the Republic of Vietnam, dated 29 November 1969, which expressed growing anxiety over the program in view of recent events concerning US military conduct in South Vietnam. (JCS 2472/557)

2. (U) Discussion of Secretary of the Army's concern expressed in reference a between the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, on 20 October resulted in a channel (reference b) request for views from the field.

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS

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3. (U) Information on the Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) Program requested by reference a has not yet been received. In the meantime, the Secretary of Defense directed (reference c) that a review of the PRU Program be made. The Joint Staff is preparing a report on the PRU Program.

4. (U) CLICPAC and COMJCSACV responses concerning the Phoenix Program (reference c) have been incorporated into a proposed CM at TAB A, which has been coordinated amongst the Joint Staff and the Service Planners. All concurred.

5. (U) Informal staff contacts with JASS(ISJ) indicate that action is underway to have Secretary of Defense forward another memorandum similar to reference c directing a review of the Phoenix Program. The Joint Staff does not consider such a review is warranted at this time. Early dispatch of proposed CM at TAB A may obviate such an action.

6. (U) Recommend that the proposed CM be approved and forwarded to the Secretary of Defense.

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Director, Joint Staff

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