MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: VC/NVA Order of Battle in SVN

1. The Order of Battle exercise initiated by General Wheeler on his trip to Vietnam has had some results as indicated on the latest published O/B which is attached.

2. In comparison with the chart published 16 August,
   a. NVA division headquarters increased by only 1 for a total of 5.
   b. NVA regiments increased by only 1 for a total of 20.
   c. NVA battalions increased by only 5 for a total of 86.
   d. No increase in VC divisions or regiments.
   e. Decrease of 2 VC battalions.
   f. Re-evaluation of regular communist strengths results in statistical decrease of about 3,500 to a total of 108,595. (This figure becomes more significant when you consider that this is a net decrease despite the infiltration during the last 2-1/2 months.)

3. This chart reflects the effects of casualties inflicted in the 324 B division in PRARIE DOG (7,610 decreased to 7,506) and the 610th division in IRVING (8,300 decreased to 4,750). In my personal opinion, these strengths may still be overstated -- especially for the 324 B division. Furthermore, of all of the other units only one, the 101st, shows any strength decrease (2,000 to 1,500).

4. You will also note no change in the long-used standard figures for irregulars -- 100,000 - 120,000.
5. In the meantime, MACV is strongly urging that the figures used for infiltration include not only confirmed and probable but also possible. For 1967, to date, this would result in an increase in infiltration totals from about 47,000 to about 64,000.

6. In sum, while we are making some progress in the validity of the statistics, I think that there are important countermoves which tend to continue to overestimate enemy strengths.

ROBERT N. GINSBURGH