BOB WOGER AND I WISH BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS PROSPECT CREATED BY NEW NIE NOW ON VERGE OF INPLETION.

DESPITE THOROUGH RE-ANALYSIS BY NOW MASSIVE MACV INTELLIGENCE MACHINE WHICH HAS BROUGHT MACV POSITION MUCH CLOSER TO THAT OF CIA, THE LATTER'S EXPERTS APPEAR INSISTENT ON FINDING OUT AN ESTIMATE WHICH WILL MAKE ENEMY STRENGTH 74-752,000 instead of the range centering in on 200,000 developmented MACV.

CIA DOES THIS CHIEFLY BY ADDING TO STRENGTH FIGURES SOME 20,000 SO-CALLED SELF-DEFENSE AND SECRET SELF-DEFENSE FORCES.
AGE 2 SAIGON 273 T G P S E C R E T EYES ONLY VIA CAS CHANNELS

ICH ARE NOT ORGANIZED MILITARY UNITS AT ALL BUT RATHER A
SHADOW, COSTLY UNARMED PART-TIME HAMLET DEFENSE ELEMENT
OF WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND OLD MEN ON WHICH WE HAVE VERY LITTLE
EVIDENCE AND WHICH IS SO INCONSEQUENTIAL AND RARELY ENCOUNTERED
BY US AS NOT TO WARRANT INCLUSION IN ENEMY STRENGTH. IN LAST
ANALYSIS ONLY ARMED MEN PLUS STRUCTURE CONTROLLING AND SUPPORT-
ING THEM SHOULD VALIDLY BE INCLUDED.

I NEED HARDLY MENTION THE DEVASTATING IMPACT IF IT SHOULD
BREAK OUT CAS THESE THINGS SO OFTEN DO! THAT DESPITE ALL OUR
ACCESS IN GRINDING DOWN VC/NVA HERE, CIA FIGURES ARE
BEEN TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE REALLY MUCH STRONGER THAN EVER.
DESPITE ALL CAVEATS, THIS IS INEVITABLE CONCLUSION WHICH MOST
PRESS WOULD REACH.

YES!Y HAS GONE BACK HARD AT RUSSELL WHEELER ON THIS AND I
INTEND TO MENTION IT TO THE PRESIDENT IN MY COMING WEEKLY.
THE CREDIBILITY GAP CREATED WOULD BE ENORMOUS, AND IS QUITE
INCONSISTENT WITH ALL THE HARD EVIDENCE WE HAVE ABOUT GROWING
ARMY LOSSES, DECLINING VC RECRUITING AND THE LIKE.

[Handwritten note: del he]