MEMORANDUM

23 May 1962

From: Chief Navy Section
To: Forces advisor

Subj: Urgent matters in the Junk Force

1. Purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance as to areas which need particular emphasis in connection with the development of the Junk Force.

2. The plans for the Junk Force provide for a total of 560 ordinary junks and 84 command junks. U.S. funds are available for the construction of 440 ordinary junks and 61 command junks. Of the remaining junks 80 ordinary are currently in being, 40 are under construction at Rach Gia by the VNN, and VNN has undertaken to construct 23 command junks at the shipyard.

3. The ordinary junks are of three types: Type A are sail only of which 240 are required; Type B are motor and sail and sometimes referred to as northern type motor junks of which 100 are required, and type C which are motor only (referred to as southern type) of which 160 are required. As of this date all 240 of type A are in contract and 60 of type C. There remained to be contracted 40 of type C and 100 of type B.

4. The following matters require urgent efforts to get the show firmly on the road:

   a. Contract for the construction of the remaining 40 type C ASAP.

   b. The plans for type B require modification which is currently underway with the help of Mr. Borges. This revision must be completed as soon as possible to provide a reasonably sound if not perfect junk.

   c. As soon as the planned revisions are far enough along, the 100 type B junks must be contracted for. Therefore, in the meantime, efforts should be made on an urgent basis to locate possible contractors to avoid delays when plans are ready.

   d. The plans and specifications for the command junks must be completed and contracts developed as soon as practicable. This part of the project has received little emphasis prior hereto because of the austere number of people available in Navy Section and because of the desire to first begin production on the ordinary junks. The technical problems of the command junk design must be rapidly finished up and contractors found, and prices for construction determined.

   e. The problem of a possible change to the specifications for the engines for the motor junks and the screws must be resolved as a compromise as soon as possible and the message on the subject replied to.
5. It must be kept in mind that VNN has recruited over 1000 men to man these junkes and this adds greater urgency to the need for the procurement of junkes.

6. It is essential the solutions to all of the items discussed herein be progressed concurrently so that this force may be operational without unnecessary delay.

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