[redacted]

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JCSM-572-67
25 October 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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TOP SECRET CONTROL
Copy No. 2
Case No. 94-F-0532
T.S. No. 94-TS-041
Document No. 26

Subject: Operations - Laos [redacted]

1. (U) Reference is made to:

a. JCSM-461-67, dated 19 August 1967, subject as above.

b. Your memorandum, dated 29 August 1967, subject as above.

c. Your memorandum, dated 13 September 1967, on the above subject.

d. COMUSMACV message, 32035/290330Z September 1967, JCS IN 22255.

e. CINCPAC message, 030245Z October 1967, JCS IN 22261.

2. [redacted] In reference 1a, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended that implementation of SOUTHPAW-type operations into Laos not be undertaken at this time. This recommendation was based on the judgment that the political and military risks involved outweighed the merits of the proposal. By reference 1b, you concurred in this recommendation.

3. (U) As requested in reference 1c, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have reconsidered the proposal. Further, CINCPAC and COMUSMACV were queried to provide any new factors or considerations which might be weighed during the conduct of this review.

4. [redacted] Neither COMUSMACV nor CINCPAC has provided any new factors or considerations which would lead to a recommendation to authorize SOUTHPAW operations at this time. References 1d and 1e apply.

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5. ([redacted]S) The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that the factors outlined in reference 1a are still valid and that the expanded enemy activity outlined in reference 1d is not sufficient to outweigh these highly significant political and military considerations. Therefore, they recommend that SOUTHPAW not be undertaken at this time.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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