

The ICA evaluation report which you have requested, which I understand is the August 15, 1957, report entitled "Evaluation of Vietnam Program," is an internal executive branch communication comprising opinion and advice on official matters. It is one of a class of reports prepared by small teams of senior officers on the basis of extensive study in the field and in Washington. The purpose of each such report is to examine basic ICA program objectives and program content in a particular country from the standpoint of determining whether the ICA program in that country is effectively carrying out our foreign policy objectives. Such reports contain the candid personal opinions, suggestions, and recommendations of the officers who prepare them, and are prepared for submission directly to the Director of the ICA for his information and use. Reports such as the one which you requested have been an important factor in the decisionmaking process within the agency, and requests for their release have consistently been denied.

Since the disclosure of the report requested by you would not be compatible with the national interest, I have forbidden that it be furnished pursuant to such request and hereby so certify in accordance with section 111(d) of the Mutual Security Appropriation Act, 1960.

Although I have forbidden the furnishing of the evaluation report requested by you, I wish to make it clear that this has not been done for the purpose of preventing the disclosure of any facts shown by the report. Such facts will be made available to you as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

DECEMBER 17, 1959.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On November 10, 1959, you wrote to me explaining the reasons why you felt that disclosure of the ICA evaluation report on Vietnam, which I had requested, would not be consistent with the national interest. Your letter stated that you have forbidden that it be furnished and so certify in accordance with section 111(d) of the Mutual Security Appropriation Act, 1960.

Your letter also stated that although you have forbidden furnishing the evaluation report requested, this was not done to prevent the disclosure of any facts shown by the report and that "such facts will be made available to you as promptly as possible."

As of the present time these facts have not been made available. I hope very much that they can be received in the near future inasmuch as my subcommittee is now in the process of preparing its report on the aid program in Vietnam.

Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD,

*Chairman, Subcommittee on State Department Organization
and Public Affairs.*