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Computers to Keep Watch On Vietnam

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The Nixon Administration is launching a project that will keep the United States Government deeply involved in the affairs of Vietnam for the next three years.

The Navy — on behalf of the Administration — intends to spend \$2.4 million a year for the next three fiscal years on an American research team in Saigon to keep track of everything from South Vietnamese internal security to economic development.

The Government's contract guide shows that this new effort goes further than the existing one will in helping the South Vietnamese police root out suspected subversives and the Viet Cong infrastructure.

The program of pacification would be measured by "mathematical models" and "automated systems" under the terms of the proposed contract — meaning computers would try to assess conditions in primitive hamlets and villages.

Such pacification research projects have been under the Army in the past. Naval command officials said the Navy is directing the effort this time because the money

is coming out of the Navy budget.

The Navy wants the research teams to determine hamlet security and military preparedness, enemy organization, effectiveness of government programs; measure combat effectiveness of Vietnam's 500,000 territorial forces; develop a sound spy system for Saigon's ministry of interior; improve the people's self-defense system; set up a system to measure the progress of resettling refugees; and conduct polls and surveys of the Vietnamese people.

The contract also calls for a system to report on "the location, identification and neutralization of members of the political infrastructure — the VCI."

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