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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 92-100
By YU, NARA, Date 7-1-93

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1967 JUL 3 20 07

FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP67651

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FOLLOWING IS THE DAILY SITUATION REPORT (NO. 4) ON
VIETNAMESE POLITICS --

SITUATION REPORT ON VIET-NAM
(JULY 3, 1967)

THE FACTS

... THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED
IN THE PAST 24 HOURS. HOWEVER, AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAS
HAD A CONVERSATION WITH KY (FULL REPORT SENT BY POUCH) WHICH
HAS DISTURBING IMPLICATIONS, [REDACTED]

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(a)(4)

KY TOLD THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL THAT KY, THIEU AND THE ARMED
FORCES COUNCIL HAVE AGREED THAT THIEU WILL BE A FIGUREHEAD
PRESIDENT AND THAT KY WILL ACTUALLY BE IN CHARGE. KY CLAIMS THAT
"TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING OR LATER MANEUVERING BY THIEU" THIS
AGREEMENT WILL BE PUT IN WRITING, WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, AND
WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY BOTH THIEU AND KY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE
SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL. ACCORDING
TO KY, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THIEU-KY SLATE HAS PRODUCED A
STRONG REACTION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WITH MANY PEOPLE,
INCLUDING "BABY TURK" MILITARY OFFICERS, FINDING IT DIFFICULT
TO ACCEPT KY'S STEPPING DOWN TO A SECONDARY ROLE. KY ASSERTS
THAT HIS SACRIFICE HAS INCREASED HIS SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE AMONG
THE MILITARY AND CORRESPONDINGLY HAS REDUCED THIEU'S INFLUENCE.
HE CLAIMS HE WILL WORK HARD TO PERSUADE HIS SUPPORTERS TO GO ALONG
WITH THE NEW ARRANGEMENT AND THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL ALTERNATIVE.

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COMMENT

THIS CONVERSATION IS DISTURBING AS A REFLECTION OF KY'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND. HE UNDOUBTEDLY IS REFLECTING REASONABLY ACCURATELY THE VIEWS OF HIS STRONGEST SUPPORTERS. HOWEVER, NOW THAT EMOTIONS ARE COOLING, KY UNDOUBTEDLY REALIZES THAT HE IS NOW UNABLE LEGALLY TO CHANGE HIS DECISION TO STEP DOWN. WE BELIEVE THAT KY IS OVERSTATING THE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE LEADING GENERALS REGARDING HIS CONTINUED DOMINANT POWER POSITION. KY WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET THIEU TO AGREE TO ANY PRECISE DEFINITION OF KY'S POWER. KY'S OBJECTIVE IN THIS CONVERSATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY TO IMPRESS US WITH THE FACT THAT HE REMAINS THE MAN FOR US TO DEAL WITH NOW AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SLATES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS:

- A. THE FIVE LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE THIEU, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SUU, BIG MINH, FORMER PRIME MINISTER HUONG, AND DAI VIET LEADER HA THUC KY.
- B. THREE OR FOUR ADDITIONAL SLATES MAY HAVE SOME LIMITED VOTE-GETTING STRENGTH IN LOCAL AREAS.
- C. ONE MINOR SLATE, HEADED BY FORMER MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY AU TRUONG THANH, HAS AS ITS SYMBOL THE SLOGAN "NO MORE BOMBS" AND AS ITS MOTTO THE WORDS "CEASE FIRE". THANH'S SLATE WAS APPROVED BY ONLY 54 ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, THE SECOND LOWEST VOTE FOR ANY PRESIDENTIAL SLATE. THIS PROBABLY REFLECTS THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME DEPUTIES TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH SUCH A SIMPLISTIC PEACE THEME.
- D. THE REMAINING SLATES ARE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.

ACTION REQUIRED

WE WILL ASK FOR BUNKER'S SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON KY'S STATEMENTS.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 92-102

By , NARA, Date 8-11-93

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1967 JUL 3 15 21

Pres file

FROM: WALT ROSTOW
TO : THE PRESIDENT
CITE: CAP67649

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEREWITH SUMMARIES OF SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT CABLES
OF THE DAY

NEAR EAST:

SOVIETS OFFER ARMS TO JORDAN - EMBASSY AMMAN HAS FURTHER
INFORMATION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE OFFERED TO RE-EQUIP JORDAN'S
ARMED FORCES. THE EMBASSY ALSO REPORTS THAT PRESSURE IS
MOUNTING ON THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EARLY PROVISIONS
FOR REARMING.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON WEST BANK - EMBASSY AMMAN BELIEVES
WE SHOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE COOPERATE WITH THE ISRAELIS IN
FURNISHING THEM INFORMATION ON THE WEST BANK ECONOMY AND
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE EMBASSY FEARS THAT BY SUCH
COOPERATION WE WILL APPEAR TO BE ENDORSING PLANS FOR A LONG-
TERM ISRAELI PRESENCE ON THE WEST BANK. THE EMBASSY AGREES
THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO PROMOTE A REVIVAL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE WEST BANK; HOWEVER, IT BELIEVES THAT
ISRAELI ENGINEERS CAN DEVISE SUITABLE PROJECTS WITHOUT OUR
HELP.

LIBYAN OIL FLOWS - RADIO LIBYA ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY
THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO ALLOW EXPORTS OF OIL TO
SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY AND OTHER FRIENDLY STATES, BUT NOT TO
THE US AND UK.

STEPS TOWARD DE FACTO PEACE - WE HAVE ASKED FOR COMMENT
FROM EMBASSIES TEL AVIV AND AMMAN UPON OUR THESIS THAT A
MORE REALISTIC ARAB VIEW OF THE NECESSITY FOR DE FACTO PEACE
WITH ISRAEL MIGHT BE OBTAINED IF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION
PROMOTED THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY OF ARAB WEST BANK
RESIDENTS. WE HAVE OUTLINED SEVERAL SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AIMED
AT PROMOTING TIES BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST BANK AND AT
EASING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

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MONDAY

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SAUDIS ASK US TO CONDEMN ISRAEL - ACTING DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MAS'UD TOLD AMBASSADOR SILTS THAT KING FAISAL WAS DOING HIS UTMOST TO MAINTAIN A MODERATE STANCE, BUT FOUND THIS MOST DIFFICULT IN THE FACE OF THE US POSITION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE REITERATED THE SAUDI POSITION THAT IT WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE OR MAKE A FORMAL PEACE WITH ISRAEL, BUT NEITHER WILL IT ATTACK ISRAEL. MAS'UD REPEATEDLY URGED THAT THE US CONDEMN ISRAELI AGGRESSION.

POSSIBLE GREEK MOVE AGAINST MAKARIOS - AMBASSADOR BELCHER REPORTS THAT THE GREEKS AND CYPROTS ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE GREEKS ONLY WANT MAKARIOS TO CLEAN HOUSE OR WHETHER THEY WISH TO IMPOSE THEIR OWN INFLUENCE UPON CYPRUS. BELCHER BELIEVES THAT THE INABILITY OF THE CYPROTS TO CONTROL THE EXTREMIST PRESS COUPLED WITH THE APPARENT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON CYPRUS OF THE MENTALITY OF THE ATHENS COUP LEADERS MAY ULTIMATELY INCITE THE GREEKS TO TAKE ACTION.

E A S T A S I A:

REPORT ON CAMBODIA - UN REPRESENTATIVE DE RIBBING TOLD CHARGE MANNAH OF HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HE CITED INCREASING AGGRAVATION BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA AND THE DEEPENING ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF CAMBODIA ITSELF. SIHANOUK EXPLAINED TO DE RIBBING THAT WHICHEVER WAY THE WAR IN VIETNAM ENDS HE FEARS CAMBODIA WILL BE CRUSHED BETWEEN ITS MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBORS.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT - VIET CONG RADIO ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 30 THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF CUBAN RAUL VALDES VIVO AS THE FIRST AMBASSADOR EVER ACCREDITED TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CENTRAL COMMITTEE. EMBASSY SAIGON BELIEVES THE APPOINTMENT MAY SIGNAL THE INITIATION OF A MAJOR EFFORT ALONG THIS LINE, AND MAY EVEN BE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR EVENTUAL PROCLAMATION OF A VIET CONG GOVERNMENT IN EXILE.

VICE PRESIDENT TALKS WITH ASIAN LEADERS - VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY TOLD KOREAN PRESIDENT PAK, JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SATO AND CHINESE VICE PRESIDENT YEN THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE FIRMER COMMITMENTS OF PROTECTION FROM THE US THAN SOUTH VIETNAM, STRESSING THAT WE WOULD LIVE UP TO OUR TREATIES. PRESIDENT PAK STATED THAT THE ASIAN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT DEPEND ONLY UPON THE US, BUT ALSO SEEK TO PROVIDE MEASURES FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. YEN CITED COMMUNIST CHIN'S NUCLEAR TESTS AS EVIDENCE OF HER INTERESTS IN AREAS BEYOND ASIA.

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UNITED NATIONS:

US VOTING ON UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS - WE INTEND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY THE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS AND AGAINST THE INDIAN-YUGOSLAV RESOLUTION. THE FORMER LINKS WITHDRAWAL WITH AN END TO BELLIGERENCY AND SECURITY COUNCIL EFFORTS TOWARDS A DURABLE AREA SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE IT OFFERS THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR REAL PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE INDIAN-YUGOSLAV RESOLUTION CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL ALONE, AND DOES NOTHING TO TERMINATE THE LONG-STANDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCE. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT EITHER THE US OR SOVIET RESOLUTIONS WILL COME TO A VOTE.

FRENCH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES - ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR LUCET THAT THE FRENCH UN DELEGATION WAS LOBBYING WITH THE FRENCH AFRICANS TO CHANGE THEIR PROSPECTIVE VOTES AGAINST THE YUGOSLAV RESOLUTION TO ABSTENTIONS. SISCO EMPHASIZED THAT WE REGARD THE YUGOSLAV DRAFT NOT AS A NEUTRAL COMPROMISE BUT AS A REFLECTION OF THE SOVIET POSITION. FRENCH UN AMBASSADOR SEYDOUX TOLD AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE OFFERED THE FRENCH AS AN INDUCEMENT FOR LOBBYING ON THE SOVIET BEHALF, THE PROSPECT OF BIG FOUR CONSULTATIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AFTER THE YUGOSLAV RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED.

ITALIANS PROPOSE COOLING OFF BEFORE VOTE - ITALY'S UN DELEGATION REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO URGE A WEEK'S POSTPONEMENT OF VOTING ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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