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169

Pres file

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Wednesday, June 21, 1967
9:15 a.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith some interesting morning items:

1. Faisal finds his feet, his tongue, his independence.
2. Bruce thinks Wilson has found a not-very-good way to deal with East of Saen in 1975.
3. Bunker has an amiable lunch with Ky and Thieu and talks Vietnamese manpower and cleaner politics.

4 and 5. Two more Hanoi reports: on bombing

1. 3
(a)(4)

W. W. Rostow

~~SANITIZED~~

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 92-84

By mg, NARA, Date 4-18-95

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Jidda 5467, June 20, 1967, confidential
London 10503, 2 sections, June 20, 1967, EXDIS, secret-
Saigon 28409, June 20, 1967, EXDIS secret-

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(a)(4)

WW Rostow:rin

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

WT 169c

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Action

R 200830Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHHQ/CINCPAC FOR POLAD
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SAIGON 28469

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

REF: SAIGON 28218, STATE 212155 By ~~2~~ NIJ 92-87 NARA Date 7-2-92

1. AT MY INVITATION THIEU, KY AND GENERAL VIEN CAME TO MY HOUSE FOR LUNCH JUNE 19, TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR LOCKE AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND. MY PURPOSE WAS TO BRING THIEU KY AND VIEN TOGETHER IN INFORMAL SURROUNDINGS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF UNITY OF THE ARMED FORCES AND SEE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET SOME AGREEMENT ON THEIR PART TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT SUBSCRIBED TO BY ALL THREE REAFFIRMING VIEN'S EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONTAINING SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ARMED FORCES TO REFRAIN FROM INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION. I PROPOSED TO SUGGEST TO THEM THAT SUCH A STATEMENT BE CIRCULATED TO OFFICERS AND RANKS WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO CORPS COMMANDERS TO SEE THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT.

2. I ALSO WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH THEM CERTAIN MATTERS RELATED TO THE VISIT OF SECRETARY McNAMARA AND UNDER SECRETARY KATZENBACH. THE LUNCHEON TOOK PLACE IN AN INFORMAL AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WITH NO EVIDENCE OF STRAIN BETWEEN OUR VIETNAMESE PARTICIPANTS.

3. WE INFORMED THEM OF SECRETARY McNAMARA'S WISHES TO MAKE THIS A STRICTLY WORKING VISIT AND TO AVOID CEREMONIAL AND PROTOCOLARY AFFAIRS. GENERAL WESTMORELAND OUTLINED PLANS WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THE SECRETARY'S FIELD TRIPS.

4. WE THEN GOT INTO THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL FREE WORLD TROOPS, A SUBJECT TOO MUCH DISCUSSED IN PUBLIC BY BOTH THIEU AND KY, AND MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO THEM THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ACCEDE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TROOPS UNLESS MAXIMUM USE WERE MADE OF AVAILABLE VIETNAMESE MANPOWER. WE FOUND READY ACCEPTANCE ON THEIR PART OF THE FACT THAT THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY. GENERAL WESTMORELAND SUGGESTED AS A MEASURE PRELIMINARY TO MOBILIZATION THAT THE TERMS OF THOSE PRESENTLY IN SERVICE BE EXTENDED AND

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--2- SAIGON 28409, 200830Z JUNE

THE AGE OF INDUCTION REDUCED. THERE WAS AGREEMENT BY THE VIETNAMESE THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE. GENERAL VIEN SUGGESTED THAT HE ISSUE ORDERS FOR EXTENSION OF SERVICE NOW WITHOUT MAKING ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD PROCEDURE.

5. ON THE SUBJECT OF MOBILIZATION, KY ASSERTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (AFTER THE ELECTIONS) BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THAT THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AND THAT THEY CERTAINLY COULD NOT EXPECT ADDITIONAL FREE WORLD TROOPS UNLESS THEY MADE A GREATER EFFORT THEMSELVES. HE FELT THAT MOBILIZATION WOULD ACTUALLY IMPROVE MORALE IN THE COUNTRY AND WOULD MAKE THE PEOPLE MORE DETERMINED TO BRING THE WAR TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. BOTH THIEU AND GENERAL VIEN ACQUIESCED IN THIS VIEW.

6. WE THEN ENTERED INTO THE QUESTION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF A JOINT STATEMENT OF NON-INVOLVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES IN POLITICS POINTING OUT THAT TWO IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES WERE INVOLVED: (A) FREE, FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS, AND (B) CONCENTRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES ON FIGHTING THE WAR. BOTH THIEU AND KY REPLIED THAT GENERAL VIEN HAD MADE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT THEY HAD ENDORSED IT FREQUENTLY. I SAID THAT GENERAL VIEN'S STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE SOMETIME AGO AND I FELT THAT IT NEEDED TO BE REINFORCED AND POINTED OUT THAT RUMORS WERE ALREADY CIRCULATING CASTING DOUBT BOTH ON THE POSSIBILITY OF FREE ELECTIONS AND THE NON-INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY: IT WAS NOT NECESSARILY A FACT THAT MATTERED SO MUCH AS WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE TRUE. CONSEQUENTLY I FELT IT MADE SENSE TO ANTICIPATE THESE RUMORS AND WHAT WAS LIKELY TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS. I POINTED OUT THAT BOTH VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS AND CONCENTRATION BY THE MILITARY ON THE WAR EFFORT HAD A DIRECT BEARING ALSO IN THE MANPOWER PROBLEMS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED: THE FREE WORLD COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FURNISH ADDITIONAL FORCES IF THE VIETNAMESE MILITARY WAS DIVERTED FROM CONCENTRATION ON THE WAR EFFORT.

7. KY SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT. THIEU FELT THAT IT WOULD BE ADEQUATE IF GENERAL VIEN SHOULD REITERATE HIS STATEMENT AND INSTRUCT HIS TROOP INFORMATION DIVISION TO SEE THAT IT WAS IMPLEMENTED. GENERAL VIEN THEN

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-3- SAIGON 28409, 200830Z JUNE

SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THE DIRECTORATE WAS THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE THE DIRECTORATE ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT. AMBASSADOR LOCKE, GENERAL WESTMORELAND AND I ALL FELT THIS WOULD BE EVEN BETTER THAN HAVING A STATEMENT SIGNED BY THIEU, KY AND VIEN. KY SAID THAT THE MATTER COULD BE TAKEN UP AT A MEETING OF THE DIRECTORATE LATER TODAY. (STILL LATER AT GENERAL VIEN'S RECEPTION CELEBRATING ARMED FORCES DAY, KY TOLD AMBASSADOR LOCKE AND ME THAT HE WOULD BE HOST A DINNER FOR HIS GENERALS AND WOULD BRING UP THE MATTER THEREIN. THIEU, HOWEVER, WAS RATHER NON-COMMITAL.

8. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE PRESENT ODDS ARE ON HAVING SUCH A STATEMENT ISSUED, BUT I THINK THAT IN THE LIGHT OF OUR TALK TODAY IF SOMETHING IS NOT FORTHCOMING WITHIN A FEW DAYS, I WILL AT LEAST BE IN A POSITION TO PROD ALL THREE INTO TAKING SOME ACTION.

9. WE HAD A GENERAL DISCUSSION ALSO ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE WAR, METHODS TO HOLD OFF INFILTRATION, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BOMBING AND THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE RD PROGRAM. WE MADE CLEAR THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO CONTINUED PROGRESS ON BOTH THE MILITARY FRONT AND IN REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. THEY AGREED THAT EFFORTS ON THESE FRONTS SHOULD NOT BE DIMINISHED BY DIVERSION OF ATTENTION TO THE ELECTIONS.

10. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, THE FACT THAT EVERYONE PRESENT PARTICIPATED FREELY IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS, AMBASSADOR LOCKE, GENERAL WESTMORELAND AND I FELT THAT THE LUNCHEON HAD BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE AND THAT WE SHOULD REPEAT THE PRACTICE AT PERIODIC INTERVALS. WHILE I DO NOT EXPECT ANY MIRACLES TO RESULT, IT IS AN OPENING WEDGE AND I THINK FURTHER SUCH MEETINGS MAY PROVE USEFUL. BUNKER
BT

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STATE/INR.	DIA	NMCC/MC	(SECDEF)	JCS	ARMY	NAVY	AIR	CIA/NMCC	NIC	NSA	OCR	SDO	AID.	CGS
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CITE

1.3(a)(4)

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DIST 19 JUNE 1967

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DOI: JUNE 1967

SUBJECT: HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED
IN HANOI

1.3(a)(4)

ACQ: 9 JUNE 1967

SOURCE:

1.3(a)(4)

SANITIZED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NJ 92-87
By [redacted], NARA, Date 1-6-93

IN 02670 70

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~~Classification~~ ~~(downgrade controls)~~

1.

1.3(a)(4)

LIVING AND
WORKING CONDITIONS IN HANOI ARE MISERABLE. THERE IS NO DECENT FOOD,
NO AVAILABLE WOMEN, NO MOTION PICTURES, AND NOTHING TO DO AT NIGHT.
WORK IS INTERRUPTED BY AS MANY AS TWELVE AIR RAID ALERTS IN A 24-HOUR
PERIOD.

ONLY VISITORS ARE SHOWN AROUND. THE NORTH-VIETNAMESE
FACTS AND FIGURES ARE OFTEN FALSE, AND THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF
FINDING OUT THE TRUTH.

2. THE STORY ABOUT A BRITISH SHIP HAVING BEEN HIT BY U.S. PLANES
WAS A LIE. IT WAS HIT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE MISSILES.
WAS IN HAIPONG AT THE TIME BUT WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THE SHIP; THE
NORTH VIETNAMESE TOLD HIM IT HAD SAILED. ON ANOTHER OCCASION A
THERMIC STATION (PRESUMABLY A THERMOELECTRIC PLANT) WAS DESTROYED

1.3(a)(4)

1.3(b)(4)

1.3(a)(4)

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(classification) (dissem controls)

3.

THE CITY OF PHU LY IN NAM DINH PROVINCE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY FLATTENED BY BOMBING. 1.3(a)(4)
THE CITY HAS CEASED TO EXIST. THE AMERICANS TRY TO TERRORIZE THE POPULATION.

4.

THERE IS STILL TROUBLE ABOUT THE TRANSIT OF SOVIET AID TO NORTH VIETNAM THROUGH CHINA.

COMMENT: NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY STATING THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED.

1.3(a)(4)

5.

DISSEM: STATE CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT
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