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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE WH70399

UNCLAS

JULY 6, 1967

HEREWITH A DRAFT REPLY TO BILL FULBRIGHT, FOR ME TO
SEND AFTER APPROPRIATE MODIFICATION.

"DEAR BILL:

THE PRESIDENT HAS READ WITH INTEREST YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER
OF JUNE 30 ON VIET NAM. AS ALWAYS, I AM SURE HE WILL TAKE
YOUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT IN THE DECISIONS WHICH LIE AHEAD.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SAIGON IS, OF COURSE, COMPLEX
AND UNCERTAIN. BUT I THINK WE OUGHT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS
SELEAGURED, INEXPERIENCED, UNDERDEVELOPED NATION IS TRYING
VERY HARD TO MAKE DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICS WORK.
LOOKING AROUND THE WORLD THERE ARE MANY MORE FAVORED NATIONS
AT THIS STAGE OF THEIR HISTORY WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE
TO SUSTAIN DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT BE
COMPLACENT ABOUT THE FUTURE, I DO BELIEVE YOU WOULD AGREE
THAT THEY HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE KY'S SPEECH IN
JANUARY 1966. WITH AMBASSADOR BUNKER ON THE SPOT AND WITH
THE SUPPORT OF ALL OF US HERE, WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING WE
CAN TO HELP THEM THROUGH THE ELECTION PROCESS IN THE WEEKS
AHEAD AND IN THE FORMATION OF AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE
GOVERNMENT.

SINCERELY,

"W. W. ROSTOW"

DTG: 061548Z JULY 1967

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