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*Pres file*  
July 13, 1967

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is the daily situation report  
on Vietnamese politics.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

SECRET-EXDIS Attachment

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 92-224

By pw, NARA, Date 8-13-92

Situation Report on Viet-Nam

July 13, 1967

New Developments

A Central Election Council source has reiterated privately to an Embassy officer that the Generals' complaint against Big Minh's candidacy remains unsupported by documentation. The Council is considering possible courses of action which would call upon the Generals to state their case against Minh in detail.

The same Council source believes the Election Council will reject the complaint against Minh's running mate as well as the complaints against the Thieu-Ky ticket. He said, however, that the documentation in support of the complaint against Au Truong Thanh made it difficult for the Council to accept Thanh's candidacy. The Council source stated that the Council will also recommend to the Assembly the rejection of four minor slates.

Viet-Nam Press reports that complaints have been filed against 19 out of 60 Upper House slates. Four of the 64 lists originally filed have withdrawn or been eliminated because of incomplete documentation. The Central Election Council has until July 20 to rule on the qualifications of Upper House candidates.

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Comment

The Central Election Council appears to be trying to do a conscientious and careful job in reviewing the complaints against presidential slates. We understand that the Embassy will make a quiet effort to try to persuade Assembly members to accept Thanh's candidacy, but will not press on Minh's candidacy. At the moment, however, the chances of Thanh's candidacy being upheld appear slimmer than in Minh's case. We assume that if the Assembly approves Minh's candidacy, the Directorate will seek to prevent his return to campaign.

Actions Underway

We have asked the Embassy to carry forward the following actions: (a) to develop plans against the contingency of a civilian election victory to ensure that the military establishment accepts the results of the election; (b) to develop contingency planning in the event there are any attempts of any sort to interfere with the course of the elections; (c) to report regularly its continuing analysis and estimate of the various presidential candidates' voting strength; and (d) to consider the desirability and form of a polling mechanism to monitor popular attitudes during the electoral campaign.