

*Hold for Rostow 72*

*Pres file*

**SECRET-NODIS**

Saturday, August 26, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Viet-Nam Election Observers

Ambassador Lodge will be coming in at 1 P. M. to discuss the *part of* observers' trip to Viet-Nam.

For possible use, I am attaching to this memo the following:

*meeting  
till Monday*

Tab A - List of observers announced thus far

Tab B - List of others who will accompany observers

Tab C - Tentative Schedule

Tab D - Guidance cable to Embassy Saigon

Tab E - NODIS cable to Ambassador Bunker on scheduling and press handling

I conveyed your thoughts to Ambassador Lodge yesterday by phone. He may raise:

1) possibility of shortening the trip (he may argue three days in Viet-Nam is enough); shortening will raise charges of trying to restrict the observers;

2) importance of avoiding social functions (covered in Tab D);

3) Thieu and Ky on MEET THE PRESS; he may suggest discouraging this; any move in this direction would probably get back to Spivack;

4) ways of trying to limit press contacts in Saigon; the only hope is to keep them as busy as possible and moving around the country.

*15-10-11*  
**DECLASSIFIED**

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By LG, NARA, Date 9-9-91

**SECRET-NODIS**

State is pulling together a briefing book for all observers. It will cover:

Chronology of political development in Viet-Nam

Biographies of all candidates

Report on Vietnamese politics

Copy of the Constitution

Platforms of all candidates

Election laws (Presidential, Upper House, Lower House)

Organizational Chart of the Vietnamese Government

Maps of Viet-Nam (political, physical)

Summary of Bunker cable on elections

Memo (25 pp.) covering common allegations and factual answers (political, military, economic)

Matters you may wish to discuss:

- 1) should observers have a brief meeting with the President or Secretary Rusk before departure (Monday afternoon)?
- 2) Lodge's plans for handling briefings of observers;
- 3) additional ideas for scheduling in Viet-Nam;
- 4) should there be any kind of group report on return to Washington?
- 5) will observers meet with President or others on their return?

William J. Jorden

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Vietnam Election Observers

Senators

1. Bourke B. Hickenlooper Banking Republican Member of the Foreign Relations Committee
2. Edmund S. Muskie Chairman, Senate Democratic Campaign Committee
3. George Murphy Chairman, Senate Republican Campaign Committee

Governors

4. William Guy Democrat of North Dakota
5. Thomas McCall Republican of Oregon
6. Richard Hughes Democrat of New Jersey

Mayors

7. Joseph Barr Mayor of Pittsburgh
8. Theodore McKeldin Baltimore Republican

Veterans

9. Joseph Scerra Incoming Commander, VFW
10. Eldon James Former National Commander, Amer. Legion

Labor

11. Dave Sullivan President, Building Services Employees Union (Vice President, AFL-CIO)

Business

12. James Antell President, Junior Chamber of Commerce
13. Warner P. Gullander President, National Assn. of Manufacturers

Churches

14. Archbishop Robert E. Lucey Archbishop of the Diocese of San Antonio
15. Rabbi P. Rudin President, Synagogue Council of America

News Media

16.	John S. Knight	President, Knight Newspapers
17.	Stanford Smith	General Manager, American Newspapers
18.	Eugene Patterson	Publishers Association
19.	Donald McGannon	Editor, Atlanta Constitution
		Westinghouse Broadcasting Company
20.	Whitney Young	President, Urban League

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Others Accompanying Observers

Ambassador-at-Large Henry Cabot Lodge

Election and Political Experts

Mr. Richard Scammon (Government Affairs Institute)  
Professor Howard Penniman (Georgetown University)  
Professor Donald Herzberg (Rutgers University)

Department of State

William H. Marsh  
Richard W. Teare

White House

William Stinson

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Lv. Washington (Andrews)	August 28	6 P.M.
Arr. Seattle		8:10 P.M.
Lv. Seattle		9:10 P.M.
Arr. Elmendorff		9:20 P.M.
Lv. Elmendorff		10:20 P.M.
Arr. Tokyo (Yokota AFB)	August 30	12:30 A.M.
		(overnight)
Lv. Tokyo		12:20 P.M.
Arr. Saigon		5:00 P.M.
	Aug. 30-Sept. 4	
		In Viet-Nam
Lv. Saigon	Sept. 4	Evening
Arr. Honolulu	Sept. 4	Evening
	(overnight - crew rest mandatory)	
Lv. Honolulu	Sept. 5	Morning
Arr. Washington	Sept. 5	Evening
(Alternative)		
Lv. Saigon	Sept. 5	Morning
Arr. Honolulu	Sept. 5	Morning
	(spend day in Honolulu)	
Lv. Honolulu	Sept. 5	Evening
Arr. Washington	Sept. 6	Morning

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ACTION: AmEmbassy SAIGON

IMMEDIATE 26 Aug 67

STATE

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

SUBJECT: ELECTION OBSERVERS

Trust that in programming for observers it will be possible:

1. to keep them active as possible and exposed to as much of country as possible;
2. to minimize exposure to press -- especially to avoid mass press conference and to permit as little opportunity as possible for particularly critical reporters to try to poison outlooks before visitors have a chance to see for themselves.
3. to give them a chance to see everything they want to see and to get an honest picture of election proceedings;
4. to arrange individual programs that will suit the observers likely interests and will take into consideration such factors as age, profession, previous Viet-Nam experience, etc. For example, Archbishop Lucey is in his seventies and should not have too rigorous schedule;

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-299

By 440, NARA, Date 12-15-94

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5. urge care in selecting escort officers who should be appropriate to observer's position, personality, etc; for example, it would be good to assign good gung-ho Jewish chaplain for Rabbi Rudin, an officer who would be sensitive to thinking in Jewish community here.

Best arrangement may be to split group into four or five sections and send them to various parts of country. You will need language officers to accompany each group. Marsh and Teare will accompany. Is supply of language officers adequate to above or should we consider sending along one or two more?

Suggest you have each of the election experts (Scammon, Penniman and Herzberg) accompany one of the groups at all times.

There is highest level interest in this mission. Please keep us fully informed of planning and of progress after they arrive. If you see any requirements we can meet at this end, please inform.

We recognize, of course, there will be widespread press interest in observers and it will be impossible to isolate group. But a busy schedule should minimize opportunities for exposure to emotional and slanted attitudes.

You will undoubtedly want one group to be in Saigon where much political activity taking place. But hope that any who remain Saigon are most mature and experienced observers.

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Planned media coverage as outlined in USIA Saigon's 3950 seems somewhat excessive, but you are best judge. Main story remains the election itself and what Vietnamese are doing.

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