

*W. W. W.*  
*1- Suspense*  
*2- Presidential file*

Saturday, August 12, 1967  
4:15 p.m.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Talk with Jim Lucas

Jim Lucas, veteran foreign correspondent for Scripps-Howard, has just returned from four-plus years in Viet-Nam. I understand you may be talking with him on Monday.

Jim Jones asked me to see Lucas because he understood he was disillusioned and had begun to turn against our position.

Lucas is an old friend from earlier Far East days (Korean War, etc.). So we had a very frank talk. Bill Leonhart joined us for part of the conversation.

I found Lucas to be tired physically and somewhat jaded on a story he had been covering for so long. But he was in no sense disturbed by our policy or our actions.

If he was concerned about anything, it was whether the American people are ready to see through this job which he thinks must be done. He was also depressed by the recent riots here at home.

On Viet-Nam, he had high praise for our people in the field -- military and civilian. He is especially high on the Marines with whom he has spent most of the last year or so. He is a close friend and admirer of General Walt; is not quite sure that General Cushman is of the same caliber but agrees he should have time to settle in.

We discussed the press corps in some detail. Jim thinks the quality is well down from a year ago, but is probably higher than it was in 1963-4.

When I asked him what he thought we should be doing that we are not, he answered: "More of the same. We have to keep the pressure on."

DETERMINED TO BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE  
MARKING. CANCELLED PER E.O. 11652,  
SEC. 1.3 AND ARCHIVIST'S MEMO OF  
MAR. 18, 1953.

BY EG ON 9-3-91

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

CONFIDENTIAL

He added:

"Americans should be proud of what we are doing in Viet-Nam. We have to be there. It is the right thing."

He even had good words to say about the Vietnamese Army -- which is unusual from a reporter.

Jim is a solid citizen. He has done an absolutely first-class job of reporting.

The above may be useful as background if you decide to meet with Mr. Lucas.

William J. Jorden

CONFIDENTIAL