

Tuesday, August 15, 1967

*Pres file*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Javits Memorandum on Viet-Nam

Bill Jorden just acquired a copy of the attached. It is a draft resolution which Senator Javits is reported to be sponsoring.

It would ask you to express to the Vietnamese Government the "high desirability of establishing a new polling date" and providing conditions for all candidates to contest the election on an equal footing.

It would also request you to appoint a bipartisan, blue ribbon commission to observe the elections and report back to you, to the Congress and the country.

Mike Manatos has been informed of the existence of this resolution. We hear that Javits is soliciting support in the Senate for his resolution which might be presented in the next day or so.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

DRAFT

JAVITS RESOLUTION

Whereas the primary basis for the presence of the United States in the military conflict in Viet-Nam is to provide the people of South Viet-Nam with an opportunity for self-determination; and

Whereas the September 3, 1967 elections in South Viet-Nam have been so compromised by actions, direct and indirect, of the present authorities as to conflict seriously with the possibility of free, fair and open expression of the national will; and

Whereas the success of the elections as an expression of self-determination represents a crucial test of the feasibility of realizing the objective of the United States commitment and; Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate, that --

It is the sense of the Senate of the United States that the President of the United States should formally represent to the Government of Viet-Nam the high desirability of establishing a new polling date and conditions for the national elections which will give an added opportunity for candidates of all shades of opinion to contest the election on an equal footing; and

Be it further resolved that the President of the United States is requested to appoint a bi-partisan, blue ribbon commission to go to Viet-Nam to observe the campaign and election process in order to report thereon to the President, the Congress and the people of the United States.