

Thursday, August 31, 1967
5:00 p. m.

sent up 9/1/67

21

MR. PRESIDENT:

In your conversation last week with Ambassador Lodge, the question of foreign observers to elections in other countries was raised.

We asked INR to pull together anything they had on this subject for Lodge's use. The attached report went out to Lodge by cable yesterday.

You may be interested in seeing this listing of previous observers' experience.

Pres file

W. W. R.

Attachment

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

21a

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON PRIORITY

Info

STATE

FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE FROM INR HUGHES

SUBJECT: US Observers at Foreign Elections

1. Herewith is country-by-country study of instances since World War II in which US sent official representatives to observe foreign elections.
2. USSR. Most striking example of official US observation of elections occurred in March 1958 when US sent three-man team to observe Supreme Soviet elections. Both USSR and Romania had accepted President Eisenhower's invitation to observe US electoral process during 1956 Presidential elections. USSR reciprocated with 1958 invitation. US representatives were Richard Scammon, political scientist, Governmental Affairs Institute; Cyril E. Black, professor of history, Princeton; and Hedley Williams Donovan, managing editor, Fortune magazine.
3. Greece. US participated officially in tripartite US-UK-French commission established to observe country-wide elections in 1946.
4. Organization of American States (OAS) has since its establishment in 1948 sent missions to Latin American countries to provide technical advisory services prior to elections and, on several occasions, has arranged for

Drafted by:

INR/REA-JHHoldridge

Tel. Ext.

3819

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

INR-TLHughes

Clearances:

INR/OD; RKGerman

S/S-

White House-WJorden (insubstance)

EA/VN-Mr. Rosenthal

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

DS-322

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Classification

groups ranging up to 30 persons from various OAS member states to be present during elections. Available data on these missions is as follows:

- a. Bolivia. Representatives from some OAS member states, including US, observed national elections of 1966.
- b. Costa Rica. Representatives from some OAS member states, including US in 1958 and 1966, observed Costa Rican elections in 1958, 1962, and 1966.
- c. Dominican Republic. Representatives from some OAS member states, including US, observed elections in Dominican Republic in 1962 and 1966.
- d. Nicaragua. Representatives of three OAS member states, including US, observed elections of 1963.

5. Earlier in this century, US on several occasions sent observers to elections in Caribbean area:

- a. Cuba. US sent observers to 1920 presidential elections at request of Cuban Government.
- b. Nicaragua. US "supervised" presidential elections in 1928 and 1932 and congressional elections in 1930.
- c. Panama. US "supervised" 1918 elections.
- d. Dominican Republic. US appointed three commissioners to observe elections in 1913 and in 1914 (over protest of Dominican Government). US also supervised March 1924 elections near end of period of US occupation.
- e. Haiti. Presidential elections held August 1915 under US auspices.

6. In addition, there have been several instances where US citizens participated in observing plebiscites or elections in dependent countries emerging into nationhood, either at request of controlling authorities or at UN behest.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Classification

Page 3 of telegram to Amembassy SAIGON

Classification

a. Sudan. US contributed one member to seven-member Sudan Electoral Commission, established under agreement between UK and Egypt, to observe 1953 elections.

b. Cameroons. US citizens were among the observers chosen from UN Secretariat staff by UN Secretary General and Plebiscite Commissioner to supervise conduct of 1961 plebiscites in Trust Territory of the Cameroons, then under UD administration.

c. Togo. Some Americans were among observers appointed by UN Secretary General for 1956 plebiscite in British-administered Togoland and for 1958 elections to legislative assembly in French-administered Togoland.

7. Finally, it may be of interest that while US did not participate directly in supervision of May 1948 elections in South Korea, such supervision was accomplished by nine-nation United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea which had been set up for this purpose as result of US-sponsored resolution adopted by General Assembly in November 1947 calling for independence and free elections for all of Korea. North Korea refused to comply, and elections hence were possible only in South Korea.