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Pres file

Thursday  
August 31, 1967 -- 12:40 pm

Mr. President:

Here are the extracts you wanted  
on life in Viet Nam.

W. W. Rostow

(8/31/67) 23a

"All industrial plants had been evacuated from urban areas. The 38 spinning plant outside of Hanoi was running at 20% of its original capacity."

Bombing "has resulted in the large scale evacuation of the factories and population."

"Since I have been unemployed since March (1967), I grow deeper in debt. With no income and no reasonable work, I have volunteered to work in the forest, but while waiting for action on my application, I have been without a cent of income."

Nam Ha, Fruit Company, June 30, 1967. "Moreover, the war is spreading all over the country and no one can feel secure in his life. Who knows whether or not I will die in the next minute."

Hanoi, June 29, 1967. "Due to the difficult war situation, nourishing food is lacking and medicines are rare. Our only solution is to try and bear it."

Ha Bac, June 15, 1967. "As to the war situation, it is very hard. Living conditions are very poor because we have to reserve everything for the front. Our food is now composed of 70% rice and 30% wheat flour, and you know the nutritional value of wheat flour is very low. Living is very difficult."

Huong Phuong, May 30, 1967. "Because we have been evacuated medicine is rather rare, and on the other hand, because of the war, food is not sufficient. Since we are engaged in a war, want is the common situation of everybody."

Viet Bac, May 20, 1967. "An evacuated student: In general our activities and studies are getting more burdensome."