

Friday, August 11, 1967

Pres file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is the daily situation
report on Vietnamese politics.

W. W. Rostow

Attachment

SECRET Attachment

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

August 11, 1967

Campaign Impasse Continues

Ambassador Bunker has talked to Thieu and Ky about resolving the dispute between them and most of the civilian candidates over GVN provision of campaign facilities.

Ky publicly refused yesterday to give civilian candidates a written guarantee of facilities they demanded after last Sunday's Quang Tri fiasco. Ky indicated he regards the demand for a written guarantee as a political move. He did state, however, that the GVN was ready to supply them everything necessary for the campaign. This echoes Thieu's August 8 press conference statement that if there are errors he would accept the blame. The candidates continue to boycott the joint campaign tours, ignoring two planes set aside for them yesterday by the GVN to take them to DaNang.

The Embassy comments that the seven civilian candidates who signed the letter to the GVN are probably getting more and better publicity by agitating this issue than they could by visiting the provinces. This plus certain remarks by Ky, and the GVN refusal to provide a written reply have inflamed the issue out of proportion to what the facts of the case warrant.

General Minh Criticizes Thieu-Ky, Backs Huong

Exiled General "Big" Minh stated in Bangkok yesterday that Thieu and Ky would win but the elections would not be fair. He also said he personally considered Huong the best candidate. Huong has previously claimed to have Minh's backing, but this is the first time Minh himself has made it public. The Embassy doubts this gives Huong's campaign a significant boost.

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By LJ, NARA, Date 11-2-94

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