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RE VTE 14 VTE 15  
RE VTE 1547  
FROM WALTER ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
INFO: GEORGE CHRISTIAN  
DATE: 9/78471

UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEWED A BRIEF COMMENT ON BUNKER'S FACE THE NATION OF  
TODAY AND (RECON) PARAGRAPH 3) MORE ON THEIUM'S RESPONSES.  
TEXT OF SAIGON 5555.

1. TRANSCRIPT AND TAPE AMBASSADOR BUNKER APPEARANCE  
CBS-TV "FACE THE NATION" SCHEDULED U.S. TELECAST SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10 AVAILABLE WASHINGTON FROM PRODUCER PRANTISS  
CHILD'S WHEN FINAL EDITED VERSION COMPLETED. PLEASE SEND  
FIVE COPIES SOONEST.

2. REPLIES FOLLOW GENERAL LINES OF PREVIOUS PRESS STATE-  
MENTS AND BRIEFINGS VARIOUS VIETNAM SUBJECTS.

3. BUNKER STATEMENT ON POSSIBILITY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS  
BEFORE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ONLY MATTER OPEN TO  
UNUSUAL PRESS PLAY. STRONG ELECTION SHOWING OF PEACE  
CANDIDATE DZU: LAWYER DZU IS NOT ALONE, ALL VIETNAMESE  
WANT PEACE INCLUDING ME. I PROPOSED PEACE PLAN DURING CAMPAIGN.  
MORE PEOPLE BACKED ME (AND MY PLAN) THAN DZU. THE VOTERS,  
HOWEVER, DON'T WANT PEACE AT ANY PRICE. THEY DON'T WANT  
TALKS WITH THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OR HAVING THEM  
IN THEIR SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

4. ROLE OF VIETCONG IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS: THEY CAN  
ONLY ACT AS MEMBER OF HANOI DELEGATION. WE COULD NEVER  
NEGOTIATE WITH VIET CONG AS REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH  
VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, LEGAL GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL ENTITY.  
THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO TALK TO INDIVIDUALS IN THE FRONT,  
HIGH OR LOW LEVEL, IN LINE WITH THE POLICY OF RECONCILIATION.  
THIS INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION COULD ACT AS BRIDGE TO FURTHER  
NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ELECTRONIC ANTI-INFILTRATION FENCE: HAS NOT HAD OPPOR-  
TUNITY TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THAT IT SHOULD INCLUDE POLITICAL  
MATTER OF COVERING THE BORDER OF LAOS. IT IS THE DUTY  
OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO OBSERVE THEIR NEUTRALITY. HE GIVES  
NO SUPPORT TO SUGGESTION THAT A POLICY OF "HOT PURSUIT" OVER  
BORDERS OF LAOS BE ADOPTED.

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6. ROLE OF GENERAL KY IN NEW GOVERNMENT: THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT ARE CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE CONSTITUTION. HE HAS WORKED WITH ME FOR TWO YEARS. HE CAN CONTINUE TO HELP ME IN MY FUNCTIONS. FEELS HE CAN WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH GENERAL KY. IN CONNECTION WITH KY'S FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES IN GOVERNMENT, DOES NOT CARE ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL, IS INTERESTED ONLY IN THE CAPACITY AND VIRTUE OF A MAN.

7. NEED FOR MORE U.S. TROOPS: I HAVE EXPRESSED MYSELF MANY TIMES ON THIS. IF WE HAVE MORE TROOPS WE CAN SHORTEN THE WAR. THE PROBLEM OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM IS THE PROBLEM OF TROOPS. IF A PEACE IS OBTAINED SOME TROOPS WILL BE NECESSARY TO INSURE THE PEACE. HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW MANY.

8. ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REORGANIZATION: HOPES TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR BOTH COMBAT, CIVIC ACTION AND PACIFICATION. FIRST WORK WOULD BE WITH REGIONAL FORCES AND POPULAR FORCES. IN FULFILLMENT OF PACIFICATION MISSION, IT IS A MISTAKE TO SAY ONLY U.S. TROOPS ARE FIGHTING THE WAR AND THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE LESS. IN MORE SECURE AREAS SOME MILITARY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT CHIEFS WILL BE REPLACED BY CIVILIANS NOW BEING TRAINED IN REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PROGRAM.

9. BOMBING THE BIKES IN NORTH VIETNAM: SUCH TARGETS DO NOT FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF EITHER AIDS TO INFILTRATION OR MEANS OF PRODUCING WAR PRODUCTS. THEY SHOULD NOT BE STRUCK.

10. LARGE CATHOLIC REPRESENTATION: FEELS THERE IS NO PROBLEM OF CATHOLICS BEING OVER REPRESENTED IN ANY PART OF GOVERNMENT. THE STRONG CATHOLIC BLOC SHOULD NOT SERVE AS A MEANS FOR THE BUDDHISTS TO MAKE TROUBLE.

11. NEW GOVERNMENT: TO HAVE CIVILIAN PRIME MINISTER. DOES NOT KNOW WHO WILL BE SELECTED. THERE IS NO POLITICAL PARTY STRONG ENOUGH NOW TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. LOOKS FORWARD TO HAVING THIS BY NEXT ELECTION. THAT FOUR YEARS WILL BE ENOUGH TIME FOR POLITICAL PARTY TO DEVELOP. AT PRESENT MAIN PROBLEM IS FORMING ANTI-COMMUNIST COMBINED FRONT IN THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. I AM IN FAVOR OF OPPOSITION AS LONG AS IT SUPPORTS THE ANTI-COMMUNIST STRUGGLE OF THE GOVERNMENT...DOESN'T KNOW IF ANY OF HIS ELECTION OPPONENTS WILL BE IN CABINET, BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO HAVING MEN WHO HAVE POLITICAL BACKING.

12. PANEL CONSISTS OF JOSEPH KRAFT, PUBLISHERS' NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE (WASHINGTON POST), TOM BUCKLEY, NEW YORK TIMES, ROBERT SHAPLEN, NEW YORKER MAGAZINE, AND NBC NEWSMAN DEAN REILIS, WITH DAVID BURRINGTON AS MODERATOR.

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