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Letter from the Pres^t to Chairman Thieu

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I extend my warm congratulations to you and to Prime Minister Ky on your victory in the election of a President and Vice President.

I have just received a detailed and most moving account of your election from the distinguished Americans whom you invited to Viet-Nam as observers. They returned believing in the fairness of the procedures and observed the intense interest of the Vietnamese people in this major step toward creating your own popularly chosen and constitutionally based government.

Their individual reports were a testimonial to the courage and determination of the Vietnamese people to remain free and to create their own political institutions in their own way.

The election was a milestone along the path toward the goal you have set for yourselves -- a free, secure and peaceful Viet-Nam. But it is not the end of the journey. Many hard tasks remain. Not the least of these now is the creation of a strong, effective and broadly-based government that will help you and your country achieve the objectives you set forth in your campaign.

The American Government and I, personally, look forward to continued close cooperation with you and your colleagues in the days and months ahead. I am confident that our efforts -- joined with those of our other allies -- will be crowned with success and that under your leadership, a peaceful, democratic, strong and prosperous Viet-Nam will emerge.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

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By 10, NARA, Date 6-23-95

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson