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FROM WALT ROSTOW  
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By ~~LBJ~~, NARA, Date 6-23-95

SEPTEMBER 7, 1967

NOW THAT THE RETURNS ARE IN AND THE OBSERVERS HAVE REPORTED A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THIEU AND KY SEEMS IN ORDER.

I SUGGEST WE TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER AUTHORIZING HIM TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY TO THIEU.

THIEU WOULD BE TOLD HE COULD RELEASE THE TEXT TO THE PRESS IF HE WISHED TO DO SO. SEC RUSK APPROVES.

A SUGGESTED TEXT FOLLOWS.

DRAFT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 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 FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE FAIRNESS OF THE PROCEDURES AND FOR 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 STIRRING 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.

SINCERELY,

DTC 071924Z SEPT 1967

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