

VZCZCEEA374  
CC WTE12  
DE WTE 1873

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECEIVED  
WHCA

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP67762

DECLASSIFIED

1967 SEP 7 20

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-364

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

By 48, NARA, Date 6-23-95

SEPTEMBER 7, 1967

16 SEP 7 PM 4:15

THURSDAY

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 CONSTI-  
TUTIONALLY 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,

DTG 071924Z SEPT 1967

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY LBJ LIBRARY