

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 1967
10:00 a.m.

suspense
2 p file
52

MR. PRESIDENT:

Draft cable 1 is the State Department draft responding to our lunch conversation about bringing the VC into the constitutional process.

Draft cable 2 is my suggested alternative. I have marked my suggested changes with yellow overlay. Article 4 of the South Vietnamese constitution is attached at Tab A.

W. R.

~~SECRET~~ attachments

Sect. Rusk has now seen and approved Draft Cable 2

W.

Approve draft cable 1

Approve draft cable 2

See me

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By rg, NARA, Date 9-13-91

1
52a

~~SECRET~~

To: AmEmbassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SANITIZED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 94-365

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

By 12/19/54, NARA, Date 12-19-54

1. My separate cable gives you one idea that we believe you should discuss urgently with Thieu at the first opportunity.

2. More tentatively, if you think it wise, we believe you should explore with Thieu and Ky as soon as possible the question of [redacted]

1.3
(a) (5)

[redacted] some possible offer to the Viet Cong relating to their entering into political life in SVN.

1.3
(a) (5)

[redacted] A public offer might have its own merits and could be undertaken separately from [redacted] private approaches.

1.3
(a) (5)

3. Any such approach or offer might get into the question of the right of the VC to form their own political party. We recognize that this is a bridge GVN has not yet been willing to cross, and it in particular may be more than is wise to put to them at the present time. However, we would like your judgment on question of putting this matter to them and including this feature. If you see no problem, you are authorized to go ahead as far as you like along these lines at your first contact.

4. As a variant of the above, one idea that has occurred to us here would be that of suggesting a local amnesty for the Viet Cong in selected areas, for example the IV Corps area. We recognize that this would involve more careful planning and an assessment of military factors, but would like your preliminary views.

END

~~SECRET~~

526

2

To: AmEmbassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SANITIZED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 94-365

By ~~12-19-94~~, NARA, Date 12-19-94

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. My separate cable gives you one idea that we believe you should discuss urgently with Thieu at the first opportunity.
2. In general, highest authority hopes that new government will be as forthcoming in effort to bring NLF into constitutional political process as it can be without excessive U.S. pressure and without threatening unity of government itself.
3. If you think it wise, we believe you should explore with Thieu and Ky as soon as possible the question of [redacted] some possible offer to the Viet Cong relating to their entering into political life in SVN under the constitution. If Communism is interpreted as a technique for seeking power and governing by dictatorial one-party rule, acceptance of the Vietnamese constitution and organized political activity within it by Communists could be regarded as compatible with Article 41.
4. [redacted]
[redacted] A public offer might have its own merits and could be undertaken separately from [redacted] private approaches.
5. Since any such approach or offer raises question of the right of the VC to form their own political party, we recognize that this is a bridge

1.3
(a)(5)

1.3
(a)(5)

~~SECRET~~

-2-

GVN has not yet been willing to cross, and it in particular may be more than is wise to put to them at the present time. However, we would like your judgment on question of putting this matter to them and including this feature. If you see no problem, you are authorized to go ahead as far as you like along these lines at your first contact.

6. As a variant, or supplement to the above, one idea that has occurred to us here would be that of suggesting a local amnesty for the Viet Cong in selected areas, for example the IV Corps area. We recognize that this would involve more careful planning and an assessment of military factors, but would like your preliminary views.

###

522

Constitution of South Viet-Nam - Articles Pertaining to
Political Life

Article 4.

- (1) The Republic of Viet-Nam opposes Communism
in any form.
- (2) Every activity designed to publicize or carry out
Communism is prohibited.

A