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53

*prev file*

Wednesday, September 6, 1967  
8:30 a.m.

Mr. President:

You will wish to read this report  
from Amb. Porter on President Park's  
general intent with respect to troops  
for Viet Nam.

W. W. Rostow

WWRostow:rln

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)  
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983  
By rg, NARA, Date 9-13-91

SECRET/EXDIS

53a

Tuesday, September 5, 1967

TEXT OF CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER (Seoul, 1120)

President Pak informed me on September 4 that he had given careful thought to the messages of his good friend President Johnson concerning the need to raise troop levels in Vietnam. He asked me to inform President Johnson that he fully agrees, and that Korea will render "maximum cooperation." He has instructed the Minister of National Defense to give him an early report as to methods of raising troops and about their number so that he can respond to President Johnson in specific terms. Pak added that when he sees the report he will himself decide whether it meets the requirements of the situation.

President Pak then said he knew President Johnson would understand the problem he is facing in this connection. The Korean people want to contribute to Vietnam where their American friends are doing so much. At the same time, they cannot help worrying about their own security in view of North Korean activities along the Demilitarized Zone and in infiltration of armed elements into various parts of the country. Public worry on this score is fanned by the opposition party, some members of the government party, and by some government officials.

President Pak said he must find some factor which will enable him to deal with this kind of sentiment among the people and the National Assembly. A good deal also depends on how the Ambassador's letter of March 4, 1966, is implemented, particularly in the field of modernization of Korean forces and anti-infiltration support.

In reply, I said he could be sure that President Johnson would appreciate the fact that he is moving toward the practical aspects of additional troop contribution through the

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 93-367

By 1-2, NARA, Date 2-7-94

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

-2-

Minister's report. My President, I added, would also understand his problem of public opinion and in the Assembly on the subject. To deal with the letter of March 4, 1966, we have set up a working group which will clarify the degree of implementation of that agreement and determine at an early date what remains to be done, after which I will urge my government to act with all possible dispatch. President Pak knew from my President's message, I said, that I am authorized to discuss other subjects with him, and this meant that we have very much in mind the problems he is facing and intend to assist him in dealing with them.

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