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Pres file

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Monday, September 4, 1967 -- 12:45 pm

Mr. President:

Herewith final returns on the Vietnamese election in terms of valid ballots cast. The only surprise is that in the end Suu pulled a bit ahead of Huong for third place.

I am convinced that to understand this election one must start by assuming that something like 22% of the votes were cast virtually at random; that is, people voted at risk to associate themselves with the Constitutional process but had no idea at all about the Presidential candidates themselves. Put another way, anyone who ran could get about 2% of the total vote.

That means the proportion of the vote that went to Thieu-Ky, among those who were actually picking candidates, was nearer 46% than 36%. And there is similarly an upward discount factor to be applied to the other three major candidates.

W. W. Rostow

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 94-364

By 109, NARA, Date 6-23-95

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SITUATION REPORT

September 4, 1967
1130

Vietnamese Elections

The total provincial returns reported by the GVN from all electoral districts (valid ballots only) are as follows:

Slate #1	Suu/Dan	502,712	10.7%
Slate #2	Ky/Dinh	346,573	7.4%
Slate #3	Binh/Khinh	129,429	2.7%
Slate #4	Dzu/Chieu	800,285	17.1%
Slate #5	Huong/Truyen	464,638	9.9%
Slate #6	Co/Sinh	185,506	2.2%
Slate #7	Ly/Duong	91,887	1.9%
Slate #8	Hiep/Truyen	159,498	3.4%
Slate #9	Thieu/Ky	1,638,902	35.7%
Slate #10	Khánh/Dang	148,652	3.1%
Slate #11	Quat/Chan	285,328	3.1%

This makes a total of 4,673,490 votes. The difference between this figure and the established total vote of 4,868,266 is 194,776. Presumably, this represents the number of invalid ballots and is about 4% of the total votes cast (the percentage of invalid ballots last year was around 5%).

The percentage of the vote for each major candidate remains about the same, as reported in the previous Situation Report, though Suu has now pulled ahead of Huong for third place.

No returns from the Senate race are yet available.

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