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2. Pres. file

Friday, September 15, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is today's situation
report on political developments in
Viet-Nam.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

MWright:hg

SECRET-EXDIS ATTACHMENT

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

September 15, 1967

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NHJ 94-363

By 40, NARA, Date 1-13-95

Election Complaints

The Assembly has been meeting to verify the provisional tallies of the presidential election. Assembly members are going over minor discrepancies with a fine-tooth comb and seem to be in no mood to validate the provisional count without a careful scrutiny.

Several defeated presidential candidates, including Suu and Dzu, held a press conference yesterday. They again denounced the election and issued a statement announcing the formation of a new organization called "Front Struggling to Carry Out Democracy" or "Democratic Front" for short. A joint protest was read charging rigged elections, declaring that they do not accept the results, and asking the Assembly to throw out the election and organize another.

Formation of a Government

We continue to get reports of difficulties between Thieu and Ky, and indicating little progress in the selection of a Prime Minister or other Cabinet members. The inner circle of Generals is reportedly meeting tomorrow to try to resolve some of these problems.

Dzu Conviction

News reports this morning state that a Saigon court has convicted presidential runner-up Dzu of passing a bad check and illegally exporting foreign exchange. Dzu immediately claimed that the conviction was a political reprisal. We understand that charges against Dzu have been pending for some time and that they seem to be well substantiated. Nevertheless, the Vietnamese Government's timing in pursuing its case against Dzu seems most ill-advised. We have telephoned the Embassy and are expecting momentarily its detailed report.

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