

~~SECRET~~

Thursday, September 21, 1967
4:05 p.m.

Herewith Amb. Bunker reports
his talk with the Canadian ICC
Commissioner. We shall have further
debriefing later.

W. W. Rostow

Saigon 6464

~~SECRET~~

WWRostow:rlh

DECLASSIFIED

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By 178, NARA, Date 9-30-91

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

26a

September 20, 1967

TEXT OF CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR BUNKER (Saigon 6464)

Senator Symington and I had an extensive talk September 17 with Canadian International Control Commission Commissioner Dier who had just returned from a two week visit to Hanoi.

Dier said that while he was there he was able to talk to North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Day Trinh and to the North Vietnamese liaison officer and to the International Control Commission Lieutenant Colonel Ha Van Lau. Dier considers the latter's views significant as he has the confidence of the Prime Minister whom Dier did not see.

Dier gained the impression that the North Vietnamese are more confident of success than they were on his last visit two months before. They believe that their staying power is greater than ours and that they can't lose. He said they have a fixation about the possibility of an invasion and they fully expect that there will be an "Inchon type" landing.

Dier raised the question of negotiations in the context of the Canadian four-point proposal. He emphasized that the Cambodians are very sincere in advancing the Canadian proposal and are anxious to help. He said he got nowhere, however. The North Vietnamese rejected the Canadian proposal out of hand, describing it as "made in Washington." Foreign Minister Trinh asked Dier to convey to Canadian Secretary of External Affairs Martin that he should not meddle in Vietnamese affairs.

Dier asked Trinh what the Government of North Vietnam would do if the bombing were stopped. He received no answer. He mentioned the significance of the elections in the south. Trinh dismissed these as "an American farce."

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-363

By LP, NARA, Date 1-13-95

While in Hanoi, Dier also talked to the Soviet Charge who was cordial and stressed that Canadians get along well with Russians. Dier said he received the clear impression from the Charge that basically the Soviets would like to get out of the whole Vietnamese affair. He complained the heavy burden of their aid to North Vietnam diverted resources they could put to better use at home.

On the subject of conditions in Hanoi, Dier said that the center of the city had become a sanctuary for truck repair and maintenance because it was free of bombing. He said he noticed no signs of a power shortage. There are thousands of auxilliary generators and at no time was the power off for more than an hour while he was there. With respect to food supply, he was told by a doctor connected with the International Control Commission mission in Hanoi that there were signs of malnutrition showing up in small children.

Dier observed the destruction caused by a bomb, apparently jettisoned over Hanoi, which had fallen in the city and leveled seventeen buildings, killing sixty-nine people.

On the International Control Commission plane with Dier going to and returning from Hanoi there were three American women respectively from New York, New Jersey and California. He described them as middle-aged, intelligent and dedicated. He said they represented the "Voice of Women" (assume these were the three representatives of "Women Strike for Peace".) He said these women had been taken all over the country in North Vietnam, places that he was not allowed to go. As a result of their experience they apparently were more convinced than ever that our policy was wrong. Dier said that he took them to task for some of their views, pointing out that they were simply accepting the classical communist-nationalist line, but he felt he had made no impression on them.

Dier said that within a few days he expected to have his notes in shape and would have more detailed information which he would pass on to me.