

Mr. Rostow

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Friday, October 13, 1967

Pres file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

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

W. W. Rostow

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

October 13, 1967

Formation of the Government

Discussions within the military leadership and among Thieu's and Ky's supporters are continuing on the question of Cabinet appointments. These discussions appear to be difficult and time-consuming, with strong differences of views held on the various personalities being considered. For example, although Ky's choice, Nguyen Van Loc, still appears to be the leading contender for Prime Minister, southern regionalist pressure against Loc appears to be growing. The key generals met on October 11 and 12, presumably to discuss question of Cabinet formation among other things. Bunker hopes to be able to see Thieu today to discuss the current situation.

Upper House Activities

Thieu gave a good speech at the installation ceremonies for the new Senate on October 11. He stressed the themes of building democracy, restoring peace, and reforming society. The Senate met again on October 12 for an organizational session and made considerable progress.

Lower House Election Campaign

American officials observing the Lower House election campaign in Bien Hoa province near Saigon report that a vigorous campaign is under way. These observers note that there are numerous candidates of education and ability in the race.

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By CG, NARA, Date 1-20-95

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