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Monday,
October 9, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Pres file

Mr. President:

Attached is today's situation
report on Vietnamese politics.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

October 9, 1967

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-405

Inauguration Preparations

By ~~wp~~, NARA, Date 3-29-95

An official in Thieu's office charged with inauguration preparations has informed the Embassy that the inauguration will be held October 30. He said that invitations are being extended to foreign chiefs of state, with the U. S. invitation being addressed to the President. The Embassy notes that informally the Vietnamese officials concerned anticipate that the Vice President may be expected to represent the President.

Formation of New Government

Our intelligence reporting indicates that Thieu and Ky are continuing to work on the formation of the new government and to discuss personalities for jobs in the government. Thieu and Ky appear to be re-establishing a satisfactory working relationship.

Buddhist-Student Agitation

In Saigon a militant Buddhist demonstration set for yesterday was indefinitely postponed in response to a letter from the Directorate to the Supreme Patriarch. The letter asked that the Buddhists refrain from any action which could prejudice the Directorate's current consideration of the Buddhist demands regarding their Charter. However, we have a fairly reliable intelligence report that Tri Quang intends to continue his vigil in front of the presidential palace until after Thieu's inauguration.

Meanwhile, a second nun has reportedly burned herself to death in the Delta. Letters left behind by the nun indicate that self-immolation was a protest against the Charter.

In DaNang a communique bearing the signature of the provinces' chief bonze urges the faithful to participate in a week of prayer and hunger strikes to protest the Buddhist Charter. Our Embassy reports that DaNang remains quiet, with business activity greatly below normal.

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