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Thursday, October 5, 1967
5:00 p.m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

You may be interested in the
attached status report on troop
contributions from Asia.

W. W. Rostow

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cc: Mr. Goldstein

WWRostow:rln

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By 48, NARA, Date 10/15/91

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

59a

Wednesday, October 4, 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

THROUGH: MR. JORDEN *WJ*

SUBJECT: Additional Troop Contribution to Viet-Nam

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-403

By *kg*, NARA, Date 10-24-95

You asked for a status report on this subject. The situation is as follows:

Australia

The Australians will certainly make an additional contribution. The best guess has been that they would provide another battalion. However, Treasurer McMahon implied this week that the Australian contribution might run to two battalions.

We expect that Foreign Minister Hasluck will give us the details on the numbers and the timing during his visit to Washington next week. (Hasluck is calling on the President Tuesday, October 10.) Although previously the Australians had wished to withhold any announcement on this until after their November senatorial elections, McMahon's letter of October 3 to the President indicated that the Prime Minister will make an announcement to the Parliament on October 17 or 19.

New Zealand

The New Zealanders are less forthcoming than the Australians, but will probably be pulled along in the wake of the Australian contribution. In any event, the New Zealand contribution would be extremely small, at best not more than a Rifle Company.

Korea

Things have not moved beyond the situation as described in President Park's letter to President Johnson of September 8. It is clear that Park anticipates making a substantial additional contribution, but will not make a decision until he has the report from his Ministry of National Defense. The best guess is that the Koreans will provide another Division.

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Korea (continued)

However, Park has two serious problems which must be faced before he can make the troops available. First, he has a political crisis with his National Assembly, which must be solved because the departure of additional troops from Korea requires Assembly approval. Second, there is genuine widespread concern in South Korea about the high level of North Korean infiltration. Park will need some help on this in order to allay public concern that Korean security is being endangered by the contribution to South Viet-Nam. Ambassador Porter is pursuing this problem vigorously and is ready to talk turkey as soon as Park is willing to do so.

Thailand

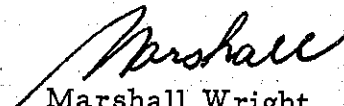
The Thai submitted to us their requirements for sending an additional 8,500 troops. This would raise the Thai contribution in Viet-Nam to about 11,000.

We expect to send a State/DOD team to Bangkok this weekend to iron out the problems. Ambassador Unger is pushing for a quick U. S. response so as to permit a public Thai announcement by the end of this month.

However, additional Thai forces would have to be trained almost from scratch. Therefore, although we may get a public announcement within a month or so, the level of Thai forces in Viet-Nam would not actually be raised before July 1968, and the entire force would not be in place until January of 1969.

Philippines

Marcos has refused even to discuss this issue until after the November elections. Even then, the prospects are not bright.


Marshall Wright

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