

~~SECRET-EXDIS~~

Friday, September 29, 1967

FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM WALT ROSTOW

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sent Ranch
via wire
9/29/67

Following is today's situation report on
Vietnamese politics.

DECLASSIFIED

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By SP, NARA, Date 10-9-91

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

September 29, 1967

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-402

By , NARA, Date 3-24-95

Validation of Elections

The Embassy indicated by phone this morning that the Assembly's special committee had not yet voted on the validation of the presidential elections. Embassy and press reporting indicates that considerable sentiment exists within the committee for recommending that the elections be invalidated. The Embassy continues to believe, however, that the full Assembly will validate the elections.

Bunker has stressed to both Thieu and Ky the potentially serious impact on United States support for Viet-Nam of irresponsible action to invalidate the elections. Both Thieu and Ky have indicated that they are now in touch with key Assembly members and groups, and that the elections would be validated.

Dzu Arrest

The Embassy confirms press reports that Dzu has been arrested. By phone this morning the Embassy indicated that it has transmitted a long report on the Dzu situation. This report should arrive during the day.

Militant Buddhists Agitation

Tri Quang continues his vigil outside the presidential palace after meeting inside with a GVN delegation to discuss the Buddhist Charter question. These discussions evidently have made little progress so far. The Vietnamese Government is maintaining its position that the two main Buddhist factions led by Tri Quang and Tam Chau, should meet to adopt a replacement for the Buddhist Charter promulgated by the Government in July. Tri Quang continues to insist that the Government withdraw the July Charter. Tri Quang has indicated that he and small groups of monks will remain in front of Independence Palace until he gets satisfaction. The palace area remains cordoned off. The Government appears to be handling this problem with commendable restraint so far.

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