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Profile
Wednesday, September 27, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is today's situation report
on Vietnamese politics.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report

September 27, 1967

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 94-402

By ajo, NARA, Date 3-24-95

Validation of Elections

Yesterday Bunker expressed to Thieu our concern regarding the prospects for the validation of the presidential elections. Bunker emphasized that Thieu and Ky had a great responsibility in this matter and that the U. S. reaction to invalidation would be most adverse. Thieu said that he was well aware of these problems and that he and Ky were working on the Assembly leaders. Thieu said he thought the vote for validation would be satisfactory. In this connection, we understand that the Central Election Council has reported to the National Assembly that none of the complaints against the presidential election filed with the Council have been substantiated. Nevertheless, the Assembly's election committee, which will review the Council's findings before the Assembly acts, is an unpredictable group. Regardless of the action by this committee, the Embassy believes the full Assembly will validate the elections.

Organization of the New Government

In the same conversation Thieu indicated quite clearly that Ky was pressing very hard to have Nguyen Van Loc appointed as Prime Minister. It was clear from Thieu's remarks that the other Generals were pressing him to take Ky's feelings into account in this matter. Bunker stressed the importance of a good working relationship between Thieu and Ky. Bunker said that if the Loc appointment was necessary to achieve such a relationship, we would be sympathetic to this problem. Thieu also said that he had sent Bunker's draft platform memorandum to his "brain trust", asking them to incorporate the Mission's ideas into the draft of his own platform.

Buddhist-Student Agitation

Some student protest activity was reported from DaNang yesterday, involving a partial and largely unsuccessful boycott of classes and the dissemination of leaflets. In Saigon

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a Buddhist newspaper published an open letter to Gen. Thieu, demanding that he restore the previous Buddhist Charter. The letter also requested that Thieu receive a petition from a delegation of 500 monks and nuns in front of Independence Palace. The Embassy understands that the Saigon Mayor may refuse the Buddhists permission to send the delegation to Independence Palace.

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