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Friday,
October 27, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is today's situation report
on Vietnamese politics.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

SECRET-EXDIS Attachment

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Viet-Nam Political Situation Report
October 27, 1967

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 94-451

By C5, NARA, Date 3-30-95

Formation of the Government

Thieu has told Bunker that the announcement of the new Cabinet might be issued on inauguration day or immediately thereafter. He confirmed that Nguyen Van Loc was currently trying to form a Cabinet. This represents a further delay in announcing the formation of the new government, but does suggest that progress is being made.

Thieu's Inaugural Speech

In a conversation with Thieu concerning his inaugural address, Bunker stressed the importance of giving the American people a better understanding of what the new government would be doing and what the role and achievements of the Vietnamese armed forces were. Thieu was receptive and asked for a memorandum covering these points. Bunker will be following up.

In addition to his inaugural address, we understand that Thieu plans:

- On October 31, a written proclamation describing the GVN's platform and priorities during the first few months.
- A message to the armed forces outlining their role in the pacification program.
- Within a few days of his inauguration, a massive leaflet drop over South Viet-Nam describing his government and urging the Viet Cong to rally to it.
- A second leaflet to be dropped over North Viet-Nam urging the people to persuade their government to take steps toward peace. Thieu hopes this leaflet will condition the North Vietnamese for his subsequent message to Ho Chi Minh.

New Government Actions

The Vietnamese Government in the past 48 hours has issued a decree calling for partial mobilization (e.g. lowering the

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draft age, extending terms of military service, etc.). Press reports this morning indicate that the government has also put on trial on charges of corruption a former province chief. Bunker has been encouraging Thieu and Ky to take such measures even before Thieu's inauguration, and these moves are most encouraging.

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