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*Pres file*

Monday, October 30, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Attached is today's report on  
the political situation in Viet-Nam.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

MWright:hg

SECRET/EXDIS ATTACHMENT

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~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

Viet-Nam Political Situation Report  
October 30, 1967

Formation of the Government

Thieu told Bunker October 27 that Nguyen Van Loc was making progress in forming the Cabinet. Thieu seemed confident that Loc would succeed, and indicated that he would appoint Loc as Prime Minister immediately after his own inauguration. The present government would then resign but stay on until the new government was formed. In discussing specific Cabinet appointments, Thieu said he expected Tran Van Do to stay on as Foreign Minister. He also confirmed that Tran Van Huong, defeated presidential candidate, had agreed to join the new government's Inspectorate.

Militant Buddhist Activity

In the same conversation, Thieu acknowledged that the militant Buddhists might seek to stir things up over the next several days in connection with inaugural and national day ceremonies. However, he told Bunker that he was continuing to try to encourage moderate elements on both sides of the Buddhist controversy to work out an agreed solution between themselves with a minimum of government involvement.

**DECLASSIFIED**

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 94-451

By Cls, NARA, Date 3-30-95

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~