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INFORMATION

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Thursday, December 7, 1967
4:10 p.m.

Mr. President:

Pres file

Herewith Locke and Porter get a
commitment from Park for a "light
division" for Vietnam. Timing dependent
on Assembly action in Seoul.

W. W. Rostow

Seoul 2769

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WWRostow:rln

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3 4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By tg, NARA, Date 1-15-92

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of Stat

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Action

CONTROL: 15060
RECEIVED: DECEMBER 6, 1967, 11:08 P.M.

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FOR SECRETARY AND BUNDY
REF: STATE 79164.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NIJ 91-7

By exp. NARA. Date 5-28-91

1. RESULT OF TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR CONVERSATION TODAY BETWEEN PRESIDENT PARK, PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON ONE HAND, AND LOCKE AND PORTER ON OTHER, WAS THAT ROKG HAS AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE ONE QTE LIGHT DIVISION UNQTE TO AUGMENT ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. TIMING OF AVAILABILITY OF THESE ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO AWAIT ROKG ASSESSMENT OF ASSEMBLY WILLINGNESS TO PASS ENABLING LEGISLATION. IN MEANTIME PORTER AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MAY OPEN CONVERSATIONS TO DETERMINE QTE ARRANGEMENTS UNQTE WHICH WILL PERMIT ACTIVATION OF SUCH LIGHT DIVISION.

2. PARK, WHO CLEARLY MAINTAINED CONTROL OF ESSENTIALS OF CONVERSATION FOR ROK'S, SAID THAT WHEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE TURNED IN REPORT INDICATING HE UNABLE RECOMMEND DISPATCH OF MORE TROOPS BECAUSE OF ROK SECURITY PROBLEMS, PRESIDENT HAD RETURNS REPORT TO MINISTER, TELLING LATTER TO FIND WAY TO MEET OBVIOUS NEEDS OF VN SITUATION. HE ALSO MADE CLEAR TO MINISTER HE WISHED HELP PRESIDENT JOHNSON. LOCKE WENT THROUGH POINTS CITED IN STATE 79164, PUTTING SPECIAL STRESS ON CURRENT COMING US TROOP CONTRIBUTION, NEED TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON ENEMY AT THIS POINT WHEN HIS PROBLEMS ARE SEVERE, EXCELLENT EFFECT ADDITIONAL ROK CONTRIBUTION WOULD HAVE ON SITUATION, AND ON PUBLIC AND CONGRESS IN US.

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3. PRESIDENT PARK REVEALED THAT DEFMIN HAD REPLIED TO HIS REQUEST FOR RE-STUDY OF POSSIBILITIES BY INDICATING THAT IF REAR AND LOGISTICAL ELEMENTS NOW SUPPORTING ROK TROOPS IN VIET-NAM COULD BE REPLACED BY CIVILIANS, ENOUGH COMBAT TROOPS WOULD BE GAINED TO FORM A QTE REINFORCED REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. UNQTE. ADDITIONALLY, PARK CONTINUED, THIS REGIMENT COULD BE FOUND IN KOREA WHICH WOULD BRING TOTAL NEW CONTRIBUTION TO LEVEL OF QTE LIGHT DIVISION.

4. PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER THEN SPOKE IN TURN. BOTH OPPOSED SENDING MORE TROOPS. FORMER SAID HIS OPPOSITION RESULTED FROM ASSURANCES GIVEN BY AMERICANS THAT PREVIOUS TROOP DISPATCH WAS LAST WHICH WOULD BE REQUESTED AND BECAUSE SUCH ASSURANCES HAD BEEN PASSED TO ASSEMBLY AND PUBLIC. HE QUALIFIED HIS RESISTANCE TO NEW DISPATCH, HOWEVER, BY STATING THAT SOMETHING MUST BE FOUND WHICH WOULD ENABLE HIS PRESIDENT TO FACE OPPONENTS OF NEW DISPATCH, ADDING THAT HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY AMERICAN REFUSAL THUS FAR TO QTE TAKE INITIATIVE UNQTE IN THAT SENSE. LOCKE REPLIED THAT WE TOO HAD EXCEEDED WHAT CONGRESS EXPECTED IN WAY OF TROOPS FOR VIET-NAM BECAUSE NO ONE COULD PREDICT REQUIREMENTS, BUT THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAD FACED UP TO LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS IN MATTER.

5. DEFMIN SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO HIS OPPOSITION ON GROUNDS OF SECURITY HE HAD BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED

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LOCKE ASSURED PRESIDENT THAT US GREATLY CONCERNED WITH MAINTENANCE OF KOREAN SECURITY AND ECONOMIC WELFARE. HE RELATED OUR INTENTIONS RE MAP IN COMING YEAR, SUPPORT FUND LEVEL, AND \$10 MILLION PROGRAM LOAN.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN MADE STATEMENT WHICH RELATED TO HIS OWN SUCCESS IN TURNING OFF ASSEMBLY INQUIRY INTO MATTER OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH 4, 1966 AGREEMENT. HE ALSO REFERRED AS DID DEFMIN, TO QTE ANTI-INFILTRATION MEASURES

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7. BEFORE DISCUSSION ENDED, LOCKE ASKED PARK IF WE COULD SET DATE FOR DISCUSSION OF QTE ARRANGEMENTS UNQTE TO SUPPORT QTE LIGHT DIVISION UNQTE HE HAD MENTIONED. PARK REPLIED THAT PORTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE COULD ARRANGE FOR MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME TO OPEN CONVERSATIONS.

8. RECOMMEND VERY CAREFUL HANDLING OF THIS MATTER.

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9. I WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH DEFMIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER AMB LOCKE HAS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER IN WASHINGTON AND I HAVE YOUR COMMENTS.

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10. GP-3. PORTER
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