

346~~TOP SECRET~~Ambassy SEOUL ~~XXXXX~~ IMMEDIATE

STATE

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 96-197By ing, NARA Date 11-26-96

1. In your talk with Park, you should explain that latest messages from Westmoreland indicate clear need for additional forces to secure vital communication lines in northern area of SVN (Routes 1 and 9) and to permit our forces there to go over to the offensive against weakened NVA/VC. ~~xxxxx~~ In response to this, we have today decided to send at once a Marine regiment and an airborne brigade, totalling together six additional top-notch combat battalions.

2. In describing situation, you should request in strongest terms that Park give permission for Westmoreland to redeploy ROK forces as necessary in current situation, which has difficulties but also great opportunities. (FYI: ~~YNN~~ We understand ROK commanders on the spot have been somewhat reluctant to redeploy rapidly at our request. End FYI).

3. Finally, you should indicate that over-all situation

EA: WPEundy:bmm 2/12/68 4235
White House - Mr. Rostow (subs.)
DOD - Secretary McNamara

The Secretary
S/S- Mr. Read

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8.

indicates redoubled urgency in requirement for additional Korean forces in Vietnam as soon as possible, at least the light division already suggested and hopefully more. Porter is of course fully familiar with support and other undertakings connected with proposed light division deployment.

GP-3

END