

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~For the President
From Walt Rostow

February 27, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Troop Contributions in Viet-Nam : *Background for briefings.*

The present status as far as we know is:

South Viet-NamOn-SetPresent strength**DECLASSIFIED**

E.O. 12953, Sec. 3.6

NLJ 96-274By wp, NARA Date 2-10-97

ARVN (including RF/PF) 630,000

Armed police and CIDG 120,000TOTAL

750,000

We hope to have part of this - planned induction by 29 Feb.

Plans

To raise ARVN strength by 65,000 men by the end of June.

New strength will come from:

-- call-back of veterans in the 20-33 year age group who have served less than 5 years

-- draft of 19-year-olds (to begin March 1)

-- draft of 18-year-olds (to begin May 1)

Numbers in each category not known.

Additionally, President Thieu has talked to Bunker and Westmoreland of perhaps an additional 30,000 but has noted problems of equipment, training, etc. No details available.

With some attrition, GVN expects to have 800,000 men under arms by mid-year. That would be the equivalent of about 9 million Americans, given the population difference.

Thailand

Now has about 2,500 men (1 regiment plus air transport unit). They will complete their tour in September.

Thai have undertaken to send a light division (11,000). Will go in two groups -- first of 6,000 began training January 22 and

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scheduled to arrive Viet-Nam no later than July 15. Second group (5,000) will be activated August 5 and are scheduled to arrive Viet-Nam by January 27, 1969.

Korea

Now has 48,800 men in Viet-Nam.

We had been negotiating with them for 5,000 logistic support troops and for an additional division. Talks have been put on the back burner because of the recent DMZ incidents and the Pueblo affair. Korean Government has made no public statement regarding additional forces for Viet-Nam.

Australia

Now has 8,000 men in Viet-Nam. No immediate plans for more.

New Zealand

Now has 576 men. No plans for more.

Philippines

2,000-man Civil Assistance Group (engineers and security force).

PHILCAG bill now before Phil Congress for renewal of funds for next fiscal year will probably pass, but with a fight.

No additional Phil contribution now in sight.


William J. Jordan

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