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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP80613

~~SECRET~~

Free file

FEBRUARY 27, 1968

SUBJECT: TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS IN VIET-NAM: BACKGROUND FOR
WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST.

THE PRESENT STATUS AS FAR AS WE KNOW IS:

SOUTH VIET-NAM

PRE-TET STRENGTH

ARVN (INCLUDING RF/PF)	630,000
ARMED POLICE AND CIDG	120,000

TOTAL	750,000

WE HOPE TO HAVE POST TET-OFFENSIVE EVALUATION BY 29 FEBRUARY.

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 20-35 YEAR AGE GROUP WHO HAVE SERVED LESS THAN 5 YEARS
- DRAFT OF 19-YEAR-OLDS (TO BEGIN MARCH 1)
- DRAFT 18-YEAR-OLDS (TO BEGIN MAY 1)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 7LG 89-109

By wpb, NARA, Date 3-1-12
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NUMBERS IN EACH CATEGORY NOT KNOWN.

ADDITIONALLY, PRESIDENT THIEU HAS TALKED TO BUNKER AND WESTMORELAND OF PERHAPS AN ADDITIONAL 30,000 DURING 1968 BUT HAS NOTED PROBLEMS OF EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, ETC. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE.

WITH SOME ATTRITION, RVN 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.

THAI HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO SEND A LIGHT DIVISION (11,000). WILL GO IN TWO GROUPS -- FIRST OF 6,000 BEGAN TRAINING JANUARY 22 AND 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 43,000 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 3,000 MEN IN VIET-NAM. NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR MORE.

NEW ZEALAND

NOW HAS 575 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.

DTG 272333Z FEB 1968

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