

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action

RR RUEHCR
DE RUMJIR 721A 18/0815Z
R 190730Z ZEA
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHPA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT

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Info

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By LW, NARS, Date 11-17-75

ACTION DEPT 2189 INFO CANBERRA 15 CINCPAC 1285 FROM SAIGON
JAN. 19, 3 PM

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L I M D I S

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FREE WORLD ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

ON JANUARY 16 AMBASSADOR JOHNSON DISCUSSED WITH AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR ANDERSON MEANS OF INCREASING AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE TO
VIETNAM. JOHNSON SAID HIGHEST PRIORITY NEED WAS FOR UP TO
200 ADDITIONAL AUSTRALIAN COMBAT ADVISORS, WHO COULD BE EMPLOYED
CFN 2189 15 1285 19 3 PM 16 JOHNSON ANDERSON JOHNSON 200

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AT SUB-SECTOR LEVEL ADVISING COMBAT UNITS OF REGIONAL AND POPULAR
FORCES.

ANDERSON POINTED OUT THAT RECENT PASSAGE OF PEACETIME CONSCRIPTION
LEGISLATION MEANT THAT ALMOST ALL AVAILABLE AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS
AND EXPERIENCED NON-COMS WOULD BE NEEDED FOR TRAINING AUSTRALIANS.
HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO TRANSMIT THE REQUIREMENT AND SEE WHAT
HE COULD GET. FYI MACV WOULD PREFER TO INITIATE THIS PARTICULAR
PROGRAM OF COMBAT ADVISORS ON BASIS OF ONE DOZEN TWO-MAN TEAMS,
SO EVEN DISPATCH OF ONLY 24 MEN WOULD BE SATISFACTORY BEGINNING.

JOHNSON THEN RAISED QUESTION OF FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,
AND SUGGESTED THEY DISCUSS POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR SOME 22
AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN ENGINEERS ORIGINALLY PROMISED FOR END OF
JANUARY. ANDERSON POINTED OUT THAT THIS GROUP WOULD NOT ALL
ARRIVE AT ONCE, AND THAT IT MIGHT NOT FINALLY TOTAL 22.
INDICATED THAT ONE PROJECT UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WAS FOR
WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT BIEN HOA. AUSTRALIANS HAD DISCUSSED
THIS WITH GVN AND USOM BUT NO FIRM COMMITMENT AS YET. PROJECT
WOULD TAKE 2 TO 3 YEARS AND COST ABOUT \$300,000. JOHNSON AGREED
SUCH PROJECT WOULD BE GOOD BEGINNING AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
WE ATTACH TO HAVING AUSTRALIANS TAKE ON THE WHOLE PROJECT,
CFN ANDERSON NON-COMS FYI MACV 24 JOHNSON 22 ANDERSON NOT
NOT 22 BIEN HOA GVN USOM NO 2 3 \$300,000 JOHNSON

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-2-2189, January 19, 3 p.m. from: Saigon

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FROM START TO FINISH AND IN EVERY PHASE OF THE UNDERTAKING. ANDERSON ACKNOWLEDGED DESIRABILITY OF THIS AND AGREED TO PASS THIS ON TO CANBERRA, NOTING THAT AS MINIMUM AUSTRALIANS COULD ALSO WORK ON VARIOUS NECESSARY ACCESS ROADS FOR BIEN HOA PROJECT.

JOHNSON ASKED IF AUSTRALIA COULD ALSO TAKE ON ANOTHER WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN TAN AN, CAPITAL OF LONG AN PROVINCE (IN HOP TAC AREA), AND BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT RELATED TO IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS TO PORT OF SAIGON. ANDERSON CONFIRMED THAT AN AUSTRALIAN EXPERT (MC KELLER) HAD DISCUSSED THE BEN NGE BRIDGE PROJECT WITH GVN, AND AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION WAS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT AUSTRALIAN ENGINEER TEAM BE EXPANDED.

JOHNSON SAID THAT UNLESS WE HEARD OTHERWISE WE WOULD ASSUME AUSTRALIANS WOULD HANDLE THESE PROJECTS, AND WOULD PLAN ON BASIS OF NOT HAVING TO TAKE ACTION ON THEM OURSELVES. JOHNSON THEN SAID THERE WAS CONTINUING NEED FOR COMPLETE HOSPITAL PROJECTS, WITH MY THO PROJECT HAVING FIRST PRIORITY.

JOHNSON REMARKED THAT WHILE THESE WERE IMMEDIATELY IMPORTANT PROJECTS ON WHICH HE HOPED WORK COULD BEGIN VERY SOON, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF NEED FOR LARGER, LONGER-TERM PROJECTS SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT OF PORT COMPLEXES FOR COASTAL CITIES WITH INADEQUATE HARBORS. HERE AGAIN, WE WOULD HOPE AUSTRALIA COULD HANDLE CFN ANDERSON BIEN HOA JOHNSON TAN AN LONG AN HOP TAC ANDERSON (MC KELLER) BEN NGE GVN JOHNSON NOT JOHNSON MY THO JOHNSON NOT

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A WHOLE INTEGRATED PROJECT, NOT ONLY CONSTRUCTING DOCKS BUT ALSO BUILDING ACCESS ROADS, WAREHOUSES, CARGO HANDLING INSTALLATIONS AND DOING BASIC HYDROLOGICAL ENGINEERING. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST BUT NOTED THAT SINCE EMPHASIS TO DATE HAD BEEN ON COMPARATIVELY SHORT-TERM PROJECTS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPACT, CANBERRA WOULD PROBABLY BE SLOW IN REPLYING. JOHNSON NOTED PARTICULAR ADVANTAGES OF SOME MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AS SYMBOL OF AUSTRALIAN COMMITMENT TO AND CONFIDENCE IN OUTCOME IN VIETNAM.

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ANDERSON POINTED OUT THAT SINCE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SAIGON IS SMALL, IT CANNOT PROVIDE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE USOM-TYPE FUNCTION, EITHER FOR PLANNING OF PROJECTS OR FOR SUPPORT OF PERSONNEL. JOHNSON SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THIS DIFFICULTY AND WOULD SEEK WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COULD NOT PROVIDE. ANDERSON SAID THIS SUPPORT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE PROVISION FOR MEDICAL NEEDS OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL, INCLUDING ACCESS TO AMERICAN HOSPITALS.

TAYLOR

BT

CFN NOT ANDERSON JOHNSON ANDERSON CANNOT USOM-TYPE JOHNSON
ANDERSON

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GROUP 100 L10000