

40 OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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INDICATE: COLLECT CHARGE TO

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Origin ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON PRIORITY 2273
" WELLINGTON PRIORITY 867

Apr 10 1 05 PM '65

Info: Amembassy CANBERRA 851
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
DOD

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Authority State Sec 114/78
By SK/mg NARS, Date 1/30/78

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A. Deptel 2229. B. CINCPAC's 030452Z Apr

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We briefed New Zealand Amb Laking April 7 on results Scherger-Phipps talks at CINCPAC and noted Australians had given strong indication GOA would ~~be~~ be willing send infantry battalion to SVN if we and GVN request. Laking said in case of GNZ matter not so clear-cut, and he unsure exactly how it stood in Wellington. He asked if we envisaged international force. ~~Deptel~~ ^{We} said we working by stages: at present we are proposing to GOA and GNZ to participate along lines ref B, upon receipt by them of request from GVN. Later we may ~~seek~~ seek participation other countries in area (Korea and Philippines mentioned as most likely ~~possibilities~~ possibilities).

Laking said his government would need rather detailed explanation ~~of~~ of our concept of force in which NZ would participate and role their element would play. Said he would transmit our request in

Drafted by: FE:MLBreckon:cv 4/9/65 Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: FE - Mr. Unger

Clearances: DOD/ISA - Adm. Blouin (draft) S/S - Mr. Read
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in principle to Wellington, but could not say with any certainty ~~the~~ what the response would be. Laking referred to questions raised earlier with us, answers to which would be pertinent to GNZ decision force deployment. We ~~the~~ will provide him with such answers shortly and cable them to Wellington for Embassy's use there as required.

Laking asked whether we had raised with GVN the possibility of a request to New Zealand and we said exploratory discussions have been authorized to go ahead in Saigon, but naturally making clear matter tentative until NZ position clear. Laking noted his government would wish to talk further with GOA/~~and~~ ANZAC frame-^{on}work for joint force: ~~Deputy~~ ^{We} said our talks with GVN would not prejudice this issue one way or other.

We also raised with Laking proposal that NZ (along with Australia) take over training of Regional Forces (Ref A). He said he would also transmit this request to Wellington.

FOR SAIGON: You should not pursue further with GVN question of a NZ force contribution to SVN until you receive further instructions; those will depend upon our receiving favorable response from GNZ.

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END

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