

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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**FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON**

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE **3423**  
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EXDIS

QUOTE THE JCS HAVE REVIEWED THE MILITARY RESOURCES WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SVN BY THE END OF 1965 AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT EVEN WITH AN ATTAINMENT OF THE HIGHEST FEASIBLE MOBILIZATION GOALS, ARVN WILL HAVE INSUFFICIENT FORCES TO CARRY OUT THE KIND OF SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE VC WHICH IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR THE PURPOSES DISCUSSED ABOVE. IF THE GROUND WAR IS NOT TO DRAG INTO 1966 AND EVEN BEYOND, THEY CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO REINFORCE GVN GROUND FORCES WITH ABOUT 20 BATTALION EQUIVALENTS IN ADDITION TO THE CFN 3423 17 JCS SVN 1965 ARVN VC NOT 1966 GVN 20

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FORCES NOW BEING RECRUITED IN SVN. SINCE THESE REINFORCEMENTS CAN NOT BE RAISED BY THE GVN, THEY MUST INEVITABLY COME FROM THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES.

QUOTE THE USG ACCEPTS THE VALIDITY OF THIS REASONING OF THE JCS AND OFFERS ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE GVN TO RAISE THESE ADDITIONAL FORCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING THE VC INSURGENCY TO AN END IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. WE ARE PREPARED TO BRING IN ADDITIONAL US GROUND FORCES PROVIDED WE CAN GET A REASONABLE DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION FROM OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES. IF THE GVN WILL MAKE URGENT REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM, WE BELIEVE IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS; KOREA, ONE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM; AUSTRALIA, ONE INFANTRY BATTALION; NEW ZEALAND, ONE BATTERY AND ONE COMPANY OF TANKS; PI, ONE BATTALION. IF FORCES OF THE FOREGOING MAGNITUDE ARE FORTHCOMING, THE USG IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE REMAINDER OF THE COMBAT REINFORCEMENTS AS WELL AS THE NECESSARY LOGISTIC PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THE THIRD COUNTRY CONTINGENTS. ALSO IT WILL USE ITS GOOD OFFICES AS DESIRED IN ASSISTING THE GVN APPROACH TO THESE GOVTS.

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-2- 3423, April 17 (SECTION TWO OF TWO), from Saigon

QUOTE YOU (THE AMBASSADOR) WILL SEEK THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GVN TO THE FOREGOING PROGRAM, RECOGNIZING THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS SUCH AS COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS, CONCEPTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND DISPOSITION OF FORCES MUST BE WORKED OUT SUBSEQUENTLY. UNQUOTE.  
CFN SVN NOT GVN USG JCS GVN VC GVN PI USG GVN GVN

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ARMED WITH AN INSTRUCTION SUCH AS THE FOREGOING, I WOULD FEEL ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED TO INITIATE WHAT MAY BE A SHARP DEBATE WITH THE GVN. I NEED SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE TAKING UP THE PENDING TROOP MATTERS WITH QUAT. TAYLOR.  
BT  
CFN GVN QUAT

NOTE: Advance copy to S/S-0 at 4:10 a.m., April 17.  
Passed White House, DOD, CIA at 4:25 a.m., April 17.

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