

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INWARD CABLEGRAM

*File*

JM

I.38266

FROM:

*2014/10/15*

DATED: 30TH AUGUST, 1965.  
1910

REC'D: 31ST AUGUST, 1965.  
1016

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON.

2987. CONFIDENTIAL.

REPEATED SAIGON MISC 325 (CANBERRA PLEASE PASS).

S.E.A.T.O. AID VIETNAM.

YOUR TELEGRAM 2465.

RAFFERTY (VIETNAM WORKING GROUP) AND UNITED STATES AID'S OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISED ON 30TH AUGUST THAT THEIR ATTITUDE TO THIS PROPOSAL WOULD DEPEND UPON WHETHER KY HAD IN MIND TO USE MOUNTED POLICE FOR CEREMONIAL PURPOSES OR FOR RIOT CONTROL AND ALSO TO SOME EXTENT ON WHERE UNIT WOULD BE BASED (ANSWERS DO NOT EMERGE FROM YOUR TELEGRAMS 2455 AND 2472).

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY WOULD HAVE SOME CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS BASED ON BRITISH EXPERIENCE IN USING MOUNTED POLICE FOR CONTROL OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN SINGAPORE.

WE UNDERSTAND USE WAS DISCONTINUED AFTER CHINESE RIOTERS HAD PERFECTED PARTICULARLY BRUTAL MEANS OF MAIMING THE HORSES.

2. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE AGREED WITH STATE DEPARTMENT AND AID THAT MOST EXPEDITIOUS METHOD OF HANDLING THIS WOULD BE CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR EMBASSY IN SAIGON AND UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND AID MISSION, BOTH OF WHOM ARE BEING ALERTED BY TELEGRAM TODAY.

(MT PLEASE ADVISE COMMUNICATIONS DUTY OFFICER WHETHER TELEGRAPHIC RETRANSMISSION TO SAIGON IS DESIRED)

MIN. & DEPT E.A. (2481/5)  
DEFENCE  
TREASURER & TREASURY  
P.M.'S

31ST AUGUST, 1965.

SEC DS FAS(1,2,3,4) SAS(MS) AS(JIC) SAMT S&SEA M&I M DL ETA  
PACAM AMSP EAMEC ICR PIO PPO MT@ ER  
SAIGON

CONFIDENTIAL

Australian Archives

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3014/10/15 PART 7

South Vietnam - Relations with Australia - Aid