

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

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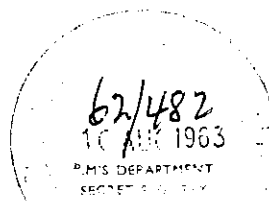
TO:

Sent: 12th August, 1963
1730

Australian Embassy,
SAIGON.

323.

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Your savingram 110.

We are in general agreement with your approach of drawing the attention of the Vietnamese Government to the possibility of a resolution and a debate in the United Nations condemning religious discrimination (see my telegram 321).

2. Australian support for South Viet Nam in the event of such a resolution would depend largely on its wording. A resolution, if carefully thought out, may well make it very difficult for Australia and presumably other friendly nations to support South Viet Nam. You should, therefore, avoid saying that Australia will not support South Viet Nam should such a debate eventuate but concentrate on the general proposition that allegations of religious persecution are always difficult to counter and that such allegations are currently causing embarrassment to the friends of South Viet Nam.

3. If there are no further conciliatory moves by the Government the possibility of a resolution in the General Assembly will be strong in view of the adverse international comments already expressed.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
MIN. & DEPT DEFENCE
P.M.'s

12th August, 1963

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1962/482 PART 2

South Vietnam situation report 1962