

February 4, 1955.

"CONFIDENTIAL"

To : Mike Adler

From : R.K. Ackley

Subject: Conference with Col Riner Feb. 3, 1955

Attached is a report which I believe is rather complete and needs no comment from me. Col. Croziat and I had agreed to work together on the report and send the information the same day to both our headquarters. By having his clerk work through the night he got it off this morning with Col. Jones, and then provided me with his rough draft after the plane had departed. However, I said nothing; you know the situation.

Mr. Lawrence Morrison is coming to Saigon tomorrow so this will be with him and he has promised to take it to you within one hour from the time he arrives. Sorry, but the best I could do.

Vic and I agree that this conference was by far the best we have ever had with Col. Riner, and for the first time he was able to come up with some answers. If these are not just words, I think we can expect better cooperation from the French here in the future. Mr. Marconnet, head of the Port Commission is the boy that has been the fly in the ointment, and as such, it is only petty irritation and can be overcome.

One very interesting point that Vic does not give is that Col. Riner is going to face a conference with the Viet Minh on the first of March and he wants to tell the VM that the equipment in Haiphong (public services) here as of that date, will remain. Therefore I am setting this month as the final push for all AEA equipment and can expect little after that date. Mr. Luat has been so informed. I told him that this is urgent, not only for Col. Riner's purposes, but also that it would be exceedingly difficult to say items were surplus to needs if the Vietnamese required the items after March 1, and therefore the shipment south would be a contravention of the Geneva Treaty. I will begin the pressure in the next two weeks to get every item on the list of remaining goods.

I must say, the conference was a tremendous satisfaction after the increasing difficulties we have faced. There is no doubt that goods will be frozen from the Vietnamese services, and the French promised assistance will go a long way toward ensuring the removal of items I had already begun to despair of.

We can talk over any further details you may wish when I see you this coming week. Your telegram suggests coming down on Monday, but if that is an order, please wire me upon receipt of this letter. I would prefer coming down on Tuesday unless you want to talk prior to the session. There continues to be much work here.

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