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Foreign Service ~~DD~~
United States of America ~~DD~~

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American Embassy, SAIGON

Leuler-dus

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Charge:

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Control: 3-554A

Date: Mar 28, 1963
1990

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Went today to prod Thuan on counter-insurgency fund. Ran into what may prove to be serious trouble. Thuan first raised certain questions and objections of relatively minor nature which he said had been raised by Director of Budget and Department of Interior. Discussing these, I suggested that we get our experts together in next day or two to iron out any remaining differences so that proposed letter could be signed and matter concluded.

Thuan then said (asking me not to report) that agreement in principle that he had previously gotten from Ngo Dinh Nhu had been withdrawn. I asked him whether President Diem had also reneged, and he said no, that Nhu was the trouble. I asked him why, and he said in effect that ~~Nhu~~ Nhu had been frightened off from ~~the~~ close collaboration envisaged in this counter-insurgency proposal by the "atmosphere" now prevailing in US-CVN relations. In discussing this, Thuan repeatedly referred to the doubts and misgivings engendered by the Mansfield Report, by editorial and press

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pressures against the CVN in America, by what appeared to Nhu to be indications of US uncertainty in continued support of CVN. In this connection he referred to Washington Post story about Nguyen Ton Hoan and upcoming visit of Warren E. Hearnes, whom he characterized as incurably prejudiced against CVN. In short, he said that Nhu particularly was disturbed about entering into a commitment of this sort (both procedural and financial) at a time when he thought he saw signs of a ^{possible} shift in US policy.

In a long discussion I attempted to disabuse him of these doubts, citing recent statements by Secretaries Hush and Harriman and giving him my own convictions. Thuan commented that it was ironic that these tremors should be disturbing basis of our joint ^{endeavors} ~~endeavors~~ at very time when our team work ^{is} ~~was~~ excellent and when real progress ^{comment} ~~is~~ being made. With this ~~comment~~ I heartily agreed.

~~comment~~ I suggested that, even if Nhu had grounds for feeling as he does, the best way to get over this period is to demonstrate ^{would} confidence which ^{USG} ~~in~~ turn engender confidence; the worst way would be to ^{CVN was} ~~give~~ and Congress grounds for feeling ~~they were~~ holding back in committing themselves to an essential part of the counter-insurgency struggle. I said about this. I would like to talk to Nhu ~~about this~~ Thuan said ~~that~~ he would

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