

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 939550

By JG NARA Date 1/19/06

ASL 007
OO YEKADN
DE YEKADY 5 09/1429Z SEP
O 091415Z
FM GEN TAYLOR, CJCS
INFO SSO ACST DA/FOR GEN WHEELER
AFSSO HQ USAF/FOR GEN LEMAY
CNO/FOR ADM McDONALD
CMC/FOR GEN SHOUP
WHITE HOUSE/FOR MCGEORGE BUNDY
CIA/FOR MCCONE
STATE/FOR RUSK, BALL, HARRIMAN, HILSMAN
ZEM
O 090825Z
FM HARKINS SAIGON
TO TAYLOR WASHINGTON D.C.
INFO FELT HAWAII
ZEM

SECRET

HAD 1649 EYES ONLY
FROM HARKINS SAIGON
TO TAYLOR WASHINGTON
INFO CINCPAC, //EXCLUSIVE FOR ADM FELT//

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

☐ Retain class'n
☒ Declassify

Change/classify to

with concurrence of

after

EO 12958, 25X

IPS/CR/IR by

Date 4/28/00

I HAD A NINE-HOLE CONVERSATION WITH SEC THUAN YESTERDAY. GOLF WAS INCIDENTAL. I'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU A HOLE BY HOLE DESCRIPTION.

THE SEC STARTED OUT SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT BY ANY STRETCH OF IMAGINATION EVER CONCEIVE THAT US-GVN RELATIONS WOULD EVER REACH THE STATE THEY ARE IN TODAY.

HE SAID EVERYONE IS CAUTIOUS NOW OF HIS ACTION TOWARDS AMERICANS. HE FELT ALL INCLUDING HIMSELF WERE BEING WATCHED. EVEN HE HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING IN U.S. PAY.

I ASKED IF HIS BEING WITH ME WOULD CAUSE HIM ANY TROUBLE. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD ADD TO THOSE HE ALREADY HAD.

HE FEELS WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN VIETNAM HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED TO THE WORLD IN PROPER LIGHT. ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE STORY HAS BEEN TOLD.

HE ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION. THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL AND ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYTHING SEEMED TO DISINTERGRATE.

I TOLD HIM I DID NOT BELIEVE THINGS WERE REALLY AS BAD AS HE THOUGHT. THAT IN SGN THERE WERE TWO COUNTRIES, SAIGON AND THE REMAINDER OF THE COUNTRY.

I TOLD HIM I HAD VISITED MOST OF THE CORPS AND DIVISIONS IN THE PAST TEN DAYS AND THOUGH THERE WAS SLIGHT DIMINUTION OF THE MILITARY EFFORT BECAUSE OF MARTIAL LAW AND ELECTIONS, THINGS WERE GETTING BACK TO NORMAL AND THE WAR WAS STILL BEING CARRIED TO THE V.C.

HE AGREED HE WAS OUT OF TOUCH AND NOT UP TO DATE.

I WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE GVN REALLY HAD TO COME UP WITH SOME POSITIVE ACTIONS TO RESTORE THEIR STATURE IN WORLD OPINION.

I SUGGESTED CONTINUE AND EVEN INTENSIFY ITS ACTIONS AGAINST THE V.C., LIFT MARTIAL LAW ASAP, END PRESS CENSORSHIP, RELEASE THE PRISONERS

902 27 11675

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 939530

By 6 NARA Date 1/19/06

RE-ESTABLISH
RECENTLY BOUNDED UP AND RESTORE THE PALADAR. I SUGGESTED THE
THE COMMITTEE HE WAS ON AND REOPEN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BUDDHISTS.
HE AGREED THOSE WERE ALL WELL AND GOOD IF THE BUDDHISTS DIDN'T
KEEP DEMANDING MORE AND MORE. *TROUBLE WAS CAUSED BY THEN HU*
HE OFFERED A GREAT DEAL OF THE *LA WAS CAUSED BY THE AN*
AND FELT THAT IF THEY WOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY THINGS WOULD BE
BETTER. HE SAID THE PEOPLE WOULD GO ALONG WITH DIEM AND WITHOUT
MENTIONING ANY NAMES BUT THAT THERE WERE PLENTY OF CANDIDATES WHO COULD
TAKE WHO'S PLACE. I SUGGESTED IF THE HUOIS WERE TRULY PATRIOTS THEY
MIGHT GO IF ASKED. HE DOUBTED THIS.

HE SAID AS TRUE IN MOST UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE PEOPLE OUT-
SIDE THE CITIES WERE PASSIVE--DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON AND DIDN'T
CARE.

I FOUND THIS TRUE IN MY VISIT UP COUNTRY TODAY. I WENT TO QUANG
NGAI, VISITED THE 25TH DIV AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF. I STOPPED AT
CUI NHON AND VISITED THE 9TH DIV. THE 9TH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE
PROVINCES BINH DINH, PHU YEN, AND PHU BON.

IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH VIETNAMESE AND AMERICANS I FOUND NO
EVIDENCE OF THE SAIGON TURMOIL. ALL KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON IN SAIGON
AND ALL AGREED IT HAD NO EFFECT UPON THEM. THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH
THE BUDDHISTS AND SCHOOLS WERE OPEN. THOUGH MARITAL LAW WAS STILL IN
EFFECT, CURFEW WAS BACK TO NORMAL AND THE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE VC
WERE IN FULL SWING. THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE TOWARDS THE MILITARY
WAS FINE. THERE IS EVEN AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THE
PEOPLE ARE REPORTING ON THE VC. THERE WERE NO STRAINED RELATIONS
BETWEEN ADVISORS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS. IN FACT SOME SAID THE RELATIONS

WERE EVEN BETTER, MILITARILY AT LEAST. WE STILL HAVE A GOING CONCERN
AND I'LL KEEP PUSHING UNTIL SOMETHING GIVES.

INCIDENTALLY, SEC THUAN GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS THINKING
OF OR WANTED TO QUIT AND LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WARM REGARDS.

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NNNN

TOR: 09/1527Z