

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
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June 15, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Vietnam Constitutional Issues

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3A  
NIJ 73-126  
By CG, NARA, Date 5-2-95

For your information, the drafting element of the Vietnam Planning Group is now re-orienting its labors to a scrutiny of issues pertinent to the constitution drafting process that will soon begin in Vietnam. The intent is clearly not to draft a constitution for Vietnam but rather to analyze, for Mission consideration, comparative advantages of different political forms at this stage of Vietnam's political development.

The issues receiving attention are given below. My share of the collective effort is IA, B and C; all of II; VI and VII (asterisks). We plan to look at those country constitutions listed under XI and summarize provisions that may have some relevance for Vietnam. I will keep you and Bill Jorden posted on the results of our labors.

I. General

- \* A. Unitary or Federal Government
- \* B. Allocation of powers between central and local governments
- \* C. Parliamentary or Presidential System
- D. Allocation of powers within central government
- E. Proportional versus direct representation
- F. Functional versus geographic representation

II. Legislature

- \* A. Unicameral or bicameral
- \* B. Size of legislature
- \* C. Qualifications, selection, term of office, removal of legislators
- \* D. Legislative powers and restrictions

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III. Executive

- A. Qualifications, selection, term of office, removal
- B. Executive powers and restrictions
- C. Emergency powers

IV. Judiciary

- A. Organization
- B. Qualifications, selection, terms of office, removal
- C. Judicial powers and restrictions
- D. Military justice

V. Citizenship

- A. Qualifications
- B. Voting rights
- C. Bill of rights

\* VI. Political parties

\* VII. Role of military

VIII. Territorial definitions and changes

IX. Process of amendment

X. Ratification processes and transition

XI. Annex - Constitutional Summaries

Japan  
Korea  
Mexico  
Pakistan  
Tanzania  
Tunisia  
\* Turkey  
\* Venezuela



D. W. Ropa

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