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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ambassador Lodge on 2 September 1966

BY: Rufus C. Phillips

1. On 2 September, I informed Ambassador Lodge that subsequent to the luncheon conversation I had had with Dr. Phuoc and Dr. Tai on 31 August, as reported in my memorandum of conversation dated 1 September, Dr. Phuoc had returned to see me on 2 September. Dr. Phuoc had said that Dr. Tai had recounted our conversation to Tri Quang and that as a result Tri Quang wanted to talk to me.

2. I stated to Ambassador Lodge that I didn't know if anything could be achieved by talking to Tri Quang in terms of persuading him to stop his fast, but that at least I could get some first-hand idea of his physical condition and state of mind.

3. Ambassador Lodge authorized my visit to Tri Quang and asked me to give him his personal regards, but he wished to caution me not to commit the U.S. to anything. Ambassador Lodge said he understood Tri Quang's problem of trying to save face, and said he would like to help him do so; but the thing he had been asking, which was the removal of Thieu and Ky, was, of course, completely impossible. I said I would report back to Ambassador Lodge as soon as possible.

Declassified by Stab

31 MAY 1983

SLO:RCPPhillips:rm
September 2, 1986

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