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ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE
Stanford, California 94305-6000

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Statement

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WN107

TO: General Lansdale
FROM: Calvin E. Mehlert
SUBJECT: Conversation with [redacted]

DATE: October 10, 1967

(B)(6) state

[redacted] dropped by on the afternoon of October 10 to ask if it would be possible to forward to Ambassador Bunker her request that the Embassy intervene with President Thieu on behalf of her husband. She said that despite the fact that the election is over and Thieu and Ky have triumphed, the authorities continue to harass her husband, with court summons. He is extremely fatigued by his six days detention during which he neither ate nor drank, and would like only to be left alone. She said that her husband hopes very much that the GVN would agree to let him rest quietly and would discontinue petty harassments. For his part, he would refrain from all political activities. She expressed the hope that the Embassy would intervene with the GVN, acting as intermediary to gain GVN acceptance of the above arrangement by which neither side would work against the other.

Alternatively, she proposed that her husband be allowed to go to another country, and suggested particularly the United States, for some months or even years. In this way, he would be available if ever needed, she said.

[redacted] said that two special police stay in the [redacted] home now, and some 15 are constantly patrolling the vicinity. She deplored what she termed the lack of "freedom and democracy" in Viet-Nam which permitted the arrest of her husband without warrant. She told of the nervous strain on herself and her family, and twice during our conversation broke down and wept. (b)(6) State

I agreed to inform my superiors of her suggestion and reminded her that I had no idea whether or not it would be possible for the American Embassy to accede to her request.

SLO:CEMehlert·rm

~~SECRET~~