

VIETNAM-U. S. POLITICAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Proposals discussed with Ambassador Bui Diem by Neil Staebler and Dana Reynolds, Wednesday, February 11, 1970.

1. Invitation from Vietnamese political parties to U.S. political parties and legislative leaders to participate in a conference in Vietnam on political development in Vietnam:

- a. Invitation to chairmen of U.S. political parties and chairmen of Congressional committees; Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs; Members of Congress for Peace Through Law; Democratic Study Group and Republican Wednesday Group; and others.
- b. Joint working party to develop agenda (but no attempt to foreclose consideration of other items.)
- c. Possible timing:

Easter Recess (March 29-April 6)
Decoration Day Lull: May 28-June 3)

(Or, possible combination of two with planning visit at Easter)

Conferees would consider priority problems in unifying and developing Vietnam; and possible schedule of subsequent political visits and actions to deal with these problems.

2. Invitation from Vietnamese Political Parties to help develop local capacities for political party fund-raising:

- a. Check availability of American firms experience in fund-raising--secure quotations, presumably at cost. Perhaps 2-3 weeks preliminary feasibility study. Mr. Staebler in contact with two fund-raising firms.
- b. Determine source of funds to defray costs.

3. Invitation from Vietnam's women's organizations to American political party vice-chairmen for women's affairs, and women's organizations, to participate in seminar in Vietnam on women's role in future development. Also, include members of U.S. Congress.

- a. Check on Democratic and Republican willingness to cooperate.
- b. Determine composition of delegation, including League of Women Voters and other women's groups.
- c. Determine source of funds.

4. Develop continuing joint body (U.S. Congress and Vietnamese Assembly) to plan disposal of U.S. war surplus:

a. Who, what Congressional Committee

b. When

c. How initiate and implement. (One proposal is to set up Vietnamese Council of Private Enterprise, with corresponding group in U.S.)

(Future Proposals)

5. Continuing joint body--perhaps an outgrowth of the above--to deal with Vietnamization of other aspects of U.S. assistance to Vietnam; including involvement of private sector on both sides.

6. Proposal for a continuing political information center in which a number of free world parties would participate with the objective of promoting democratic political development in Vietnam perhaps as an outgrowth of Proposal No. 1.

Drafted by: Neil Staebler

NOTE: The foregoing was drafted immediately following the conversation with Ambassador Bui Diem, with the full understanding that there are various refinements and elaborations in order.

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