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Hist. V. MINH  
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113. Griffin replies that "I understand that ours is an economic aid mission" and that the budding controversy could jeopardize the economic aid program. The French show no enthusiasm for Point 4. Gullion (Saigon) 176 to Acheson, 13 March 1950.....

# TELEGRAM SENT

To: SECSTATE, WASHINGTON

Date: March 13, 1950

No: 176, 86 to Paris

Charged to: Goe

Sent Dept 176 repeated Paris 86, Dept pass Paris

FROM GRIFFIN.

1. Mission work till now has been limited to receiving requests fr, Viets, Cambodians, Laotians. None of these coordinated yet by them or us, although French have shown at least part of their program as developed here to Viets. This has been time consuming process of many meetings and postponements. No difficulty anticipated with relatively simple Cambodian Laotian program as these people cooperate with French and are suspicious of Viets.

2. Puzzled by paragraph five Deptel 136, March 9. My understanding was that this Mission was instructed Cable program recommendations from field after examination (fact finding) proposals and that subject had urgency. We have repeatedly informed French and Viets of our hope that they have meeting of minds at least on essential and urgent items so that US could act more promptly. We have not tried to force either party to consolidate its program with the other and we have not urged any course in the sense second sentence of your paragraph 4. In fact our concern, clearly stated in Legtel reference, has been to preserve our government from being put into such a position.

3. I understand that ours is an economic aid mission and our remarks in sense of paragraph 2 above have been confined to economic aid. However, two programs should be mutually supporting and will possibly overlap to some extent. Dept is entirely right in foreseeing grave friction on distribution of military aid. The controversy on military aid which is budding without any help from the mission could jeopardize success of economic program. (Legation believes Department's views about not venturing any remarks on subject reconciling views on military aid may be inconsistent with Deptels 122, March 4 and 129, March 8). In view of effervescence in press and French and Viet Govt circles over AFP report that all aid would be through France, mission and Legation have thought opportune to let things simmer down before trying sell Bao Lai and Carpentier on views in referenced Deptelc. My denial of agency report should calm matters somewhat.

4. Extremely urgent to prepare and initiate program at earliest date or political benefit will be vitiated. Fact finding here should produce report reasonably believed to be acceptable Pignon as well as Bao Dai. If entire matter is put aside for negotiation in remote capitals in future sometime, efforts to make good-will for and with Bao Dai elements might be destroyed. We have just been informed by LEDOUX on his arrival from Paris that economic aid program for fifteen million-submitted directly to Washington and being studied by interested agencies there. From Ledoux's brief comment on make-up this Paris/Washington submission not realistic economic or political being designed more to relieve French balance-of-payments position than achieve US objectives of political economic support in Indochina. (See Lettel 165, March 3 paragraph 10 (c). Ledoux requesting permission Pignon give us copy this evening. Composition of program is of course very important. Must emphasize strongly that how American aid is extended and how rapidly are factors at least as important as how much.

5. LIPSMAN, DICKINSON and ELUM have worked most usefully with Mission. Dr. MOYER's presence has been immeasurably helpful.

6. You may anticipate at least recommendation that five million dollars ECA funds if they can be made available current fiscal year should be employed here. We will suggest what phases program should be allocated that fund. You may also anticipate that in this particular country GRIFFIN and GULLION may recommend ECA Mission take complete charge all economic aid under coordination by Chief diplomatic mission. This respect perhaps ECA should be alerted as top job will require person good stature and capacity (Dickinson and Elum have seen, concurred the proposal and Dickinson will discuss on return).

7. Cambodians and Laotians welcome technical aid prospects. Viet have hitherto insisted without much documentation they well furnished with Viet technicians. We learn today they under misapprehension they would have to pay salaries American US technicians sent here which may account for their past attitude. They now preparing requests for considerable technical assistance. French have demonstrated great technical capacity here in past and have many able technicians. They show no enthusiasm for Point IV. While March 3 Agreements provide priority French technicians, French might show some latitude this connection. Their skepticism reported due belief Point IV has too little money and drive behind it and will not bear fruit for many years.

8. Gullion concurs.

GULLION

*Griffin*  
LA Gullion/vdm/cla