

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(D)

~~SECRET~~

MESSAGE

By M. W. M. NARS Date 4/23/73
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

SMITH-BUNDY
 DUNGAN
 GILDNER
 KAYSER
 PETERSEN
 SCHLESINGER
 TAYLOR

P 300645Z MAR 62

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
 DOD DIR 5200.10

FM COMUSTDC

TO SEC DEF WASHDC

SECRET

RETAIN OR DESTROY

BELK
 FORRESTAL
 KOMER
 RASKIN
 SAUNDERS

FROM CJCS EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY MCNAMARA SIGNED LEMNITZER.

1. MY VIETNAM VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL AND INSTRUCTIVE. I HAD TWO CONFERENCES WITH PRESIDENT DIEM EACH LASTING ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS. AMB. NOLTING AND GEN. HARKINS ACCOMPANIED ME ON BOTH OCCASIONS. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT AND IS PLEASED WITH MANNER HARKINS' COMMAND IS WORKING WITH VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES. HE INDICATED INTENSE INTEREST IN DETAILS OF OUR FY 63 DEFENSE BUDGET, U.S. NUCLEAR POWER, INCREASED EMPHASIS ON BUILD-UP OF U.S. CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND BERLIN SITUATION.

2. IN TWO DAYS OF INTENSIVE TRAVEL BY AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTER, I WAS ABLE TO SEE MOST OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO INCLUDE:

- ✓ A. OBSERVATION OF RESULTS OF OUR DEFOLIATION EFFORTS WHICH ARE NOT IMPRESSIVE.
- ✓ B. VISIT TO ARVN CORPS HQ AT DA NANG (I CORPS); NA TRANG (II CORPS) AND SAIGON (III CORPS) AND DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION, PLANS AND OPERATIONS WITH COMMANDERS AND U.S. ADVISORS.
- ✓ C. VISIT TO FATHER HA'S COMMUNITY IN EXTREME SOUTHERN PART OF VN.
- ✓ D. FLIGHT OVER ZONE D AND ALONG CAMBODIAN AND LAOTIAN BORDERS TO 17TH PARALLEL TO OBSERVE TERRAIN.
- ✓ E. VISIT TO JOC.
- ✓ F. INSPECTION OF U.S. ARMY HELICOPTER COMPANIES IN EACH CORPS AREA.
- ✓ G. INSPECTION OF STRATEGIC VILLAGE OF CU CHI (50 MILES NORTHWEST OF SAIGON.)

3. DURING VISIT TO I CORPS, I FOUND THAT A TWO-BATTALION OPERATION AGAINST VIET CONG WAS IN PROGRESS TO CLEAR RICH FARMING COMMUNITY NEAR BINH DIN WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER VC CONTROL FOR MONTHS. USING HELICOPTERS I VISITED HQ OF COMMANDER CONDUCTING THIS OPERATION AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY THE OPERATION WAS BEING HANDLED. BY THE TIME I ARRIVED, VC HAD EVACUATED VILLAGES AND HAD WITHDRAWN TO NEARBY MOUNTAINS WHERE OPERATIONS WERE BEING PRESSED AGAINST THEM.

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NR : 300645Z

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4. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THUAN AND GENERAL HARKINS ACCOMPANIED ME ON ALL FOREGOING FIELD VISITS. AMB. NOLTING JOINED US DURING VISIT TO STRATEGIC VILLAGE OF CU CHI.

5. FROM MY INQUIRIES AND OBSERVATIONS IN SAIGON, I FEEL THAT OUR PROBLEM OF EMBASSY-MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS IS OVER. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NOLTING AND HARKINS ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL. BOTH EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY THINGS HAVE DEVELOPED AND IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY ARE WORKING WELL TOGETHER AS A U.S. TEAM.

SCP-4

ACTION: SECY MCNAMARA (OSD)

INFO : GEN PARKER (OCJCS)

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