

*Confirming
Copy*

Wes Fishel

November 16, 1960

Lloyd Musolf

The attached letter was withheld from last Monday's mail in order to see what further developments would occur. The attached communique gives some indication of the line the government is taking against the civilians associated with the coup. We are apprehensive as to how far the government pursuit of the so-called "intellectuals" may go. In general, the government is continuing to try to play down the coup by minimizing the number of casualties that occurred and by suggesting that the coup had no popular support. American policy is to try to restrain the government in its punitive drive and to urge the government to attempt needed reforms. The American reputation is at stake here and it is imperative that Diem be persuaded to liberalize his policy. Today's announcement from the government only indicates, however, that "colonialists" are now being accused of being involved in the coup.

On quite another point mentioned in the attached letter, Reischauer seems to have rearranged his schedule in view of the coup. I presume that if he reaches Saigon somewhat later he may contact me.

LDM/dw

COMMUNIQUE

TO THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY:

The uprising led by Nguyen-Chanh-Thi and Vuong-Van-Dong is completely wiped out immediately thanks to the loyalty of the whole population and all echelons of the army - including paratroopers - toward the personalistic Republican Regime under the leadership of Patriot Ngo Dinh Diem.

But in addition to Thi and Dong who are undisciplined army officers, there are a number of the so-called intellectuals who have either pulled the strings or given a helping hand to the rebels. Their attitude of betrayal is very clear in the past events.

THE PEOPLE ASK FOR THEIR PUNISHMENT - Therefore, from this hour on:

1. Any Vietnamese citizen, any foreigner or any agency harboring them must immediately take them to the people's anti(rebel and communist (Phien-Cong) committee. If they let other people discover and denounce them to the committee, then the household head will be considered a traitor and will receive the punishment reserved for them by the angry people.
2. People of every walk of life must collaborate with the committee in order to search for the political opportunists and rebels - to denounce them, to catch them in this moment is the patriotic and anti-communist action. Whoever has taken part in this action will be greatly rewarded.

Saigon, Nov. 13, 1960

The People's Anti-Rebel and Communist Committee.