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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO~~TOP SECRET~~

Classification

39

09399

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO TOSEC/ IMMEDIATE

Info:

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State 5/5/80 re NLJ-79-53

NODIS

By MIE, NARS, Date 5/28/80

TO SECRETARY FROM BALL - X FOR DELIVERY IN A.M.

From search of records here today, Yost conversation with U Thant this morning and our phone conversation, we have tried to reconstruct events re SYG's 1964 suggestion that US and DRV meet in Rangoon to discuss peace in Vietnam.

Highest authority would appreciate receiving your best recollection of private talks with Stevenson on this subject, and we would appreciate any comments or modifications you have on following reconstructed chronology:

August 1964 U Thant approached Ho Chi Minh (through Soviets) re sending representative to meet with US emissary at some unspecified place.

1st half September U Thant got affirmative reply indicating talks should be private and without knowledge Peking. U Thant asserted he immediately passed word to Stevenson but ~~XXX~~

/Stevenson

Drafted by:

S/S:BR Read: sb 11/18/65

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

S/S - Herbert Gordon

Clearance:

U - Mr. Ball (Substance)

Wid
m Bundy

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Nov 10 1 53 AM '65

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Stevenson told Cleveland he first informed in late November, and that Thant said he had not wanted to talk to him on matter before elections but that he (Thant) had gone ahead on his own.

November 23 Talk between Secretary and Stevenson on subject.

November 24 Secretary told Stevenson we need know U Thant's thinking and what reaction he had had. Possible venues also discussed. told Secretary
Later same day, Stevenson's response was "very affirmative" re opening line of communication, and that he (Thant) got this word from the Russians.

November 26 Stevenson told Secretary of further conversations with U Thant and indicated would explore the possibility of Rangoon as site for talks. Secretary said for time being it "makes sense for U Thant to keep this (matter) in his own hand for the moment." After Stevenson said U Thant's source of information was Suslov, Secretary said he wouldn't mind asking Dobrynin "quite frankly about it." (UThant account is that he suggested to Stevenson in November that discussions take place in Rangoon between the American Ambassador and the North Vietnamese Consul General in order that secrecy be maintained. Stevenson was not enthusiastic).

Early

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Early December	U Thant convalescing.
Late December	U Thant asked Stevenson about US response and was told it was being given "serious consideration". Stevenson reported foregoing to Secretary. (Thant account is that he did not raise subject with Stevenson until January, and that Stevenson said Washington found it difficult to accept suggestion because of shakiness of South Viet Nam Government.) (Stevenson later told Cleveland that Washington response was always: "There may be a time...but not now.")
February 13, 1965	U Thant told Yost he was still awaiting US response.
February 21, 1965	<u>Los Angeles Times</u> published story headed "Thant Sends Peace Plan to LBJ" subheaded XXXXX "Stevenson is Likely Intermediary."
February 24	U Thant held press conference. In later telephone discussion with U Thant, Secretary said SYG's "proposals" just procedural and gave no indications that talks would be fruitful. U Thant said again that he had had no response from Stevenson on his "proposal."
February 27	Stevenson told U Thant that despite existence of several channels of communication, there no indication that Hanoi willing

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willing to cease its attempts to ~~take~~ take over South Viet Nam.

March 10

UN spokesman announced that Stevenson on February 27 had
conveyed the official US reaction to SYG "proposal".

GP-1

END

ACTING

DALL