

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING RIO DE JANEIRO

POL VIETNAM

ACTION: AMB

POL-2

INFO

DCM

MINECON

POL/R

DAO

MILGRP

-2

USIS

BELEM

BH

CURITIBA

PALESTINE

SAOP

RECIFE

SALVADOR

- R 070243Z DEC 67
- FM SECSTATE WASHDC
- TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
- ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
- RUESMO/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0420
- RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0326
- RUESUA/AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO 0774
- RUQVGM/AMEMBASSY RAWALPINDI 0352
- RUQVXR/AMEMBASSY KARACHI 0190
- RUMJGM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0207
- RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0416
- RUGTAN/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0431
- RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0979
- RUBKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0234
- RUMJRH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0260
- RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1134
- RUABWE/HICOM RYUKYUS POLAD
- RUHHQA/CINCPAC POLAD
- RUEBKA/CINCLANT POLAD
- RUEPSA/CINCSRIKE POLAD
- RULPAL/CINCSO POLAD
- RUFFBK/CINCEUR POLAD
- RUFFAG/CINCUSAREUR POLAD
- RUBLHA/SHAPE POLAD
- RUEPWB/CO USAJFKCENSPWAR
- ZEN/ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC POSTS
- STATE GPNC
- BT

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Control: 5418

Recd: Dec 7 1967
0713

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
DEC 9 1967
MOTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L

STATE 80803

REF: STATE CIRCULAR 76976

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. MOBILIZATION DECREE. LOWER HOUSE DEBATE ON MOBILIZATION DECREE MORE CRITICAL OF SUBSTANCE OF DECREE THAN UPPER HOUSE. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DEPUTIES DESCRIBED IT AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, ILLEGAL, UNJUST AND UNNECESSARY, MOST CRITICISM WAS MODERATE. OTHER DEPUTIES DEFENDED DECREE. FINALLY, HOUSE CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT EXPLANATION OF DECREE, BOTH AS TO ITS SUBSTANCE AND REASON FOR ISSUANCE BY GOVERNMENT AS DECREE RATHER THAN ENACTMENT BY ASSEMBLY.

2. LOWER HOUSE MEMBERSHIP VALIDATED. TOTAL 137 MEMBERS LOWER HOUSE VQRDATED, COMPLETING FORMATION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNDER CONSTITUTION, AND PAVING WAY FOR DISSOLUTION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHICH OCCURRED ON DEC. 5.

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3. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. COMMUNIST RADIOS CLAIMED SECRETARY MCNAMARA WAS "DISMISSED", DEPICTING HIM AS "STRONGMAN" WHO HAD PLAYED LARGE ROLE IN ESCALATION OF WAR. RADIOS PREDICTED THAT WAR WOULD CONTINUE TO ESCALATE IN NORTH AND BECOME INTENSIFIED IN SVN.

4. SAIGON PRESS. PRESS FOCUSED ON MCNAMARA'S RESIGNATION, SPECULATION ABOUT LANDINGS IN NVN, AND REPRISALS AGAINST VC BASES IN CAMBODIA. MANY PAPERS SEE ESCALATION LIKELY. THIS REPORTED WITH APPROVAL BY MOST PAPERS.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION. SAIGON RETAIL PRICE INDEX STEADY FOR THIRD WEEK AS INCREASES IN RICE PRICES WERE BALANCED BY LOWER FISH PRICES. IMPORTED COMMODITY INDEX FELL BY ONE POINT.

6. ALLEGED US MEETINGS WITH VC REPRESENTATIVES. AP AND SAIGON PRESS CARRIED STORIES ALLEGING THAT PROJECTED MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND HIGH-RANKING REPRESENTATIVE OF NLF HAD BEEN THWARTED RECENTLY WHEN VC EMISSARY WAS ARRESTED BY GVN POLICE ENROUTE TO MEETING. STORIES ALSO ALLEGED MEETING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS AND VC REPRESENTATIVES IN "NEUTRAL EMBASSY" IN SAIGON. COMMENT: EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PLANNED OR ACTUAL MEETINGS AS FALSE, AND REAFFIRMED THAT USG WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE ANY SUCH CONTACTS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF GVN. STORY REPORTEDLY CAME FROM MID-LEVEL VC EMISSARY CAPTURED IN SAIGON.

7. NLF AND UNITED NATIONS. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE PRESS DISCUSSION OF NLF'S REPORTED CONTACT WITH UN SECRETARIAT IN OCTOBER IN BID FOR INVITATION TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. PRESUMABLY TO LOBBY FOR OWN INTERESTS.

US ATTITUDE ON PARTICIPATION OF VC IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION WAS EXPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG IN HIS TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE, WHERE HE SAID WITH RESPECT TO GROUPS SUCH AS THE NLF, RULE 39 OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS THE APPLICABLE RULE AND THE US WOULD NOT STAND IN WAY OF GROUPS, INCLUDING NLF BEING INVITED UNDER THAT RULE.

FYI: IN CASE OF MEETINGS IN SECURITY COUNCIL INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES NVN AND SVN, US WOULD SEE NO CAUSE FOR BARRING NLF ALSO FROM PARTICIPATING UNDER RULES FOR HEARING NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES. US INTRODUCED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DISCUSSION OF VN IN FEBRUARY 1966. OPPOSITION OF USSR AND FRANCE ABORTED DISCUSSION THEN AND SUBSEQUENTLY. SHOULD NLF BE OFFICIALLY INVITED TO UN, UNDER RULE 39, AS HOST NATION TO UN UNDER HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS, WOULD ISSUE VISAS TO NLF REPRESENTATIVES. PROSPECTS DIM, HOWEVER, SINCE HANOI AND NLF AS RECENTLY AS SEPTEMBER 12, DENIED THAT UN HAD ROLE IN VIET-NAM. END FYI.

8. MILITARY. US, FVMAF, AND RVNAF FORCES CONDUCTED 126 OPERATIONS DURING WEEK. ENEMY-INITIATED AMBUSHES/ATTACKS INCREASED. ENEMY KIA DECREASED FROM 1826 TO 1358. ALLIED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS MET SCATTERED LIGHT TO MODERATE CONTACT IN I CORPS. ENEMY ARTILLERY

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FIRE NEAR DMZ INCREASED SOMEWHAT. FIGHTING IN DAK TO AREA II CORPS DIMINISHED AS NVA UNITS WITHDREW TO BORDER AREAS. VIETNAMESE ARVAN UNITS ACCOUNTED FOR 189 ENEMY KIA WHILE LOSING 13 MEN IN HEAVY FIGHTING IN KONTUM PROVINCE. CONTACTS IN III CORPS WERE SCATTERED. VC MORTARED AND ATTACKED DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AT BU DOP AND CIDG (PARAMILITARY) CAMP AT BU DOP.

9. US PACIFICATION ANALYSIS. AMBASSADOR ROBERT KOMER, GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S DEPUTY FOR PACIFICATION, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN SAIGON TO EXPLAIN HAMLET EVALUATION SYSTEM (HES). HES DEVELOPED DURING THIS YEAR TO REGISTER GROWTH OF GOVERNMENTAL INFLUENCE AND PROGRESS IN PACIFYING, THEN DEVELOPING VIETNAMESE HAMLETS. (SEE WIRELESS "CLEAR SIGNS OF PROGRESS").

10. WIRELESS.

"TEXT, JOHNSON PRESS CONFERENCE" AF 234, EAF 200.

"JAPANESE LEADER URGES HANOI TO RESPOND TO PEACE" AF 234, EUF/SEF 234, EAF 200, MEF 232.

"VIETNAMESE QUITTING COMMUNISTS IN 1967 EXCEED 26,000" AF 234, ARF 233, RIO 233, EUF/SEF 234, EAF 200, MEF 232.

"CLEAR SIGNS OF PROGRESS" REPORTED IN VN EAF 200, MEF 232, MEF 231.

"VN DATA BOX" ARF 232, RIO 231, EUF/SEF 232, MEF 230, AF 232, EAF 232.

"WHITE HOUSE SAYS EISENHOWER GAVE OWN VIEWS ON INVASION", AF 231, EUF/SEF 231, MEF 229, ARF 230, RIO 230, EAF 231 RUSK

RELAYED BRASILIA

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