

ABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION  
EVENUONIT NOTICED

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

1		5
2		7
3		8
4		4
5		10

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

MOCK:  YES  NO

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

REF TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE RID  RET. TO \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH  DESTROY  U.S.

ISSUANCE COPY  ISSUED  SLOTTED

DISTRIB BY \_\_\_\_\_ PER \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTION  RID COPY

INFO:  
FILE NO.

REPORT CLASS SECRET

ABROAD

COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM/FRANCE

DOI: 21 DECEMBER 1968

SUBJECT, VICE PRESIDENT NGUYEN CAO KY'S COMMNTS ABOUT HIS 21  
DECMR DISCUSSION OF HIS PEACE PROPOSAL

EO 12958 3:4(b)(1) > 25Yrs  
(C)

ACQ.

(21 DECEMBER 1968)

EO 12958  
3.4(b)(1) > 25Y  
rs  
(C)

SOURC:

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1) > 25Yrs  
(C)

SUMMARY:

VICE PRESIDENT KY UNDERSTANDS QUITE CLEARLY THE VIEWS OF  
THE U. S. GOVERNMENT ON KY'S TWO-PHASE PROPOSAL TO "JUMP OVER" THE  
PRESENT IMPASSE ON PRODEDURAL MATTERS AT THE PARIS PACE TALKS, AND  
AGREES THAT HIS PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT BE MADE NOW OR LATER EXCEPT AS A  
SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION ONCE THE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS HAVE BEGUN IN  
PARIS AND WITH THE DRV, NLF, USG, AND GVN PARTICIPATING. KY ALSO

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

ADVANCE COPY  ISSUED  PLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

INDEX  YES  NO

BY \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_ 2

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS TO FILE NO \_\_\_\_\_

DISSEM BY \_\_\_\_\_ PER \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTION  RID COPY

FILE RID  LEFT TO \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH

DESTROY  SIG

INFO:  
FILE NO.

APPRECIATES THE NEED FOR RESOLVING THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS OF TABLE CONFIGURATION ETC AND GET THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS GOING PRIOR TO THE CONVING OF THE U. S. CONGRSS ON 6 JANUARY, AND UNDERSTANDS THE PROBABILITY THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WILL ACCLERATE RAPIDLY AFTER 6 JANUARY IN OPPOSITION TO CONTINUED AMERICAN SUPPORT IN THE VIETNAM WAR; UNLESS CONCRETE PROGRESS IS FORTHCOMING IN PARIS PEACE TALKS. KY'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN, HOWVER, IS STILL THE URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT, BY A RESHUFFLING OF THE CABINT WHICH WILL BRING INTO THE NW GOVERNMENT THE ENERGY, DECISIVENESS AND LEADERSHIP THAT THE GVN MUST POSSESS IF IT IS TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO SEE THE TALKS TO A CONCLUSION SATISFACTORY TO THE GVN. END OF SUMMARY.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>2  
(C)

1. KY SAID HIS 21 DECEMBER DISCUSSION WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN WHICH [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE USG'S REACTION TO KY'S TWO-

PHAS PROPOSAL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NVN AND US MILITARY FORCS, TO BE

FOLLOWD BY GVN-NLF DISCUSSIONS TOWARD A POLITICAL STTLEMENT, WAS

A HELPFUL ONE. S IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY KY WHAT THE USG EXPECTS

OF THE GVN, VIZ., TO SHELVE THIS PROPOSAL EXCEPT AS A SUBJECT FOR

SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ONCE THE PROCEDURAL MATTERS ARE RESOLVED

AND THE FOUR PARTICPANTS, THE DRV, NLF, USG, AND GVN, ARE ENGAGED

IN DISCUSSING THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND PROBLEMS. FURTHERMORE,

~~SECRET~~

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED		CLASSIFIED MESSAGE	TOTAL COPIES	ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY	
ADVANCE COPY <input type="checkbox"/> ISSUED <input type="checkbox"/> SLOTTED <input type="checkbox"/> AT: _____ DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> RID COPY		<del>SECRET</del> (When Filled In) REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED INDEX <input type="checkbox"/> VER. ( ) AND CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. _____ X-REF TO FILE NO. _____ FILE RID <input type="checkbox"/> REC. TO _____ INFO _____ FILE VL _____	EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION	1	6
				2	7
				3	8
				4	9
				5	10

1. KY AGREES WITH THE AMERICAN POSITION AND WILL GOVERN HIMSELF ACCORDINGLY.

2. KY ALSO APPRECIATES THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM ON THE U. S. SIDE IN THE NEED FOR REAL PROGRESS IN THE PARIS PEACE TALKS PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON 6 JANUARY. KY'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN IN BRINGING ABOUT SUCH PROGRESS, HOWEVER, IS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PRESENT SAIGON GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS TOO WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE TO DEAL WITH THE STRESSES AND STRAINS WHICH WILL DEVELOP ONCE THE GVN BEGINS MAKING THE CONCESSIONS IT MUST MAKE IN THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS, NOW ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND LATER ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. PRIME MINISTER TRAN VAN HUONG HAS HAD TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE HIS ABILITIES AS PRIME MINISTER, AND IS CLEARLY NOT UP TO THE TASK, EVEN THOUGH HIS SELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER IN THE THIEU GOVERNMENT WAS ORIGINALLY MADE WITH GOOD AND SUFFICIENT POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE CHOICE. THE CABINET IS A LACKLUSTER ONE, PUT TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF SEVERAL THIEU SUPPORTERS, SEVERAL FROM HUONG'S CAMP, SEVERAL FROM INTERIOR MINISTER KHIEM'S GROUP ETC.; THE COMPROMISING AND POLITICAL BALANCING WHICH PUT THE CABINET TOGETHER HAVE SINCE CONTRIBUTED TO ITS WAKNESS AND DETERIORATION, AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT

~~SECRET~~

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION  
PRESTANTUM NOTIFIED

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

INITIALS AND/OR INITIALS

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY  ISSUED  BLOTTED

INDEX  YES  NO

BY \_\_\_\_\_ AT \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

UNSCEN BY \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_

EX-REF TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION  RID COPY

FILE NO. (Incl. TO) \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

INFO:  
FILE NO.

THE UNIFIED AND DECISIVE KIND OF GOVERNMENT THE GVN MUST HAVE TO FACE THE WEEKS AND MONTHS JUST AHEAD. AS EXAMPLE OF GVN'S PRESENT INEFFECTIVENESS, THE INFORMATION MINISTER THIEN SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION WEEKS AGO. IT HAS NEITHER BEEN ACCEPTED NOR REJECTED, BUT MEANWHILE THE GVN PARIS PEACE TALKS DELEGATION RECEIVES INADEQUATE SUPPORT FROM THE INFORMATION MINISTRY IN THE CRUCIAL PERIOD OF THE TALKS. ROUGHLY THE SAME THING APPLIES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO HAS BEEN SIMILARLY UNHELPFUL IN SUPPORTING THE GVN PARIS DELEGATION.

3. ONE SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT, AS THE PARIS PEACE TALKS CONTINUE AND CONCESSIONS ARE MADE BY THE GVN SUCH AS DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE NLF IN KY'S TWO-PHASE PROPOSAL, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITANTS AND THE "YOUNG TURKS" AMONG THE MILITARY MAY INTERPRET THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS LEADING EVENTUALLY TOWARD A COALITION GOVERNMENT OR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WHICH MAY SET THE STAGE FOR A LATER TAKEOVER OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE COMMUNISTS. IF THIS FEELING BECOMES TOO WIDESPREAD AND THE GVN IS UNABLE TO CONTRACT IT WITH STRONG LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MILITANTS, MANY OF THE LATTER WHO ARE HOT-HEADED AND ULTRA-NATIONALIST INDIVIDUALS IN ANY CASE, MAY WELL TAKE ACTION TO UNSEAT THE THIEU GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT CONCERN FOR OR OBLIVIOUS TO THE TREMENDOUS EFFECT

~~SECRET~~

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION  
PRIORITY/INITIATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

GROUP:  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

1		G
2		P
3		C
4		F
5		TC

ADVANCE COPY  ISSUED  SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

INDEX  YES  NO

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO.

REF TO FILE NO.

DISSEMINATION BY ACTION

PAR

FILE THIS  REF. TO

BRANCH

OFFICE

RIO COPY

INFO.

FILE NO.

ANY KIND OF COUP D'ETAT WOULD HAVE ON U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND THE EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON WITHDRAWING FURTHER AMERICAN SUPPORT FROM A NEW SAIGON GOVERNMENT. THIS IS ANOTHER ELEMENT WHICH THIEU AND KY MUST CONSIDER IN MOVING TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IT THE BASE OF SUPPORT NEEDED TO MOVE THROUGH THE PRECARIOUS WEEKS AHEAD. IN THIS SAME GENERAL VEIN, THE GOV MUST CRACK DOWN ON THE PRESENT RELATIVELY UNRESTRAINED SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESS, AND ALSO TAKE STEPS TO RENDER THE LEGISLATURE'S CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT LESS TROUBLESOME. MOST OF THE LEGISLATORS ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO DO A GREAT DEAL OF TALKING BUT VERY LITTLE CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPORTING OF THE GOALS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY SHOULD BE CHANNLED EITHER INTO SILENCE OR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE UNDERTAKINGS, BY THE TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES OF MONEY PAY-OFFS TO THEM FOR SILENCE WHICH THEY WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT AND LICK THEIR WOUNDS IN SILENCE, OR BY APPROPRIATE PRESSURES FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHICH MAKE THEM THINK TWICE BEFORE NEEDLESSLY OBSTRUCTING OR OTHERWISE HARASSING THE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP.

4. KY'S MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM, AND ONE WHICH MUST BE SOLVED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, NOT WEEKS, IS TO CONVINCE PRESIDENT THIEU OF THE ABSOLUTE NEED TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET AND COME UP

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION  
UNIT NOTIFIED

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

~~SECRET~~  
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND  
DECLASSIFICATION

1		6
2		7
3		8
4		9
5		10

MAKE COPY  XEROX  BLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

INDEX:  YES  NO

CLASSIFY TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

X-REF TO FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

FORM BY \_\_\_\_\_ PER \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NO.  RET. TO \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH  DESTROY  YRS.

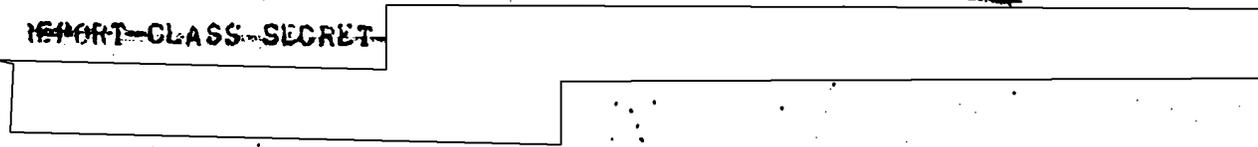
RID COPY

INFO. \_\_\_\_\_  
FILE. VR. \_\_\_\_\_

WITH A NEW AND MUCH MORE DECISIVE KIND OF GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP, IF NEED BE, ONE IN WHICH A VERY STRONG PRIME MINISTER WILL BE PERMITTED A WIDE LATITUDE OF DECISION AND AUTHORITY, WITH THE PRESIDENT EXERCISING THE HIGH LEVEL POLICY AUTHORITY AND DELEGATING THE REMAINDER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. IF A NEW SAIGON GOVERNMENT CAN BE CONSTITUTED AND CAN BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE NATION, THE GVN WILL NOT NEED MORE THAN SEVERAL MILLION OUT OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION IN SUPPORT OF THE GVN'S POLICIES, AND WITH THOSE SUPPORTERS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE TOWARD A QUICK RESOLUTION OF THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM SUCH AS THE CONFIGURATION OF THE TABLE ETC., AND NEGOTIATE AND WIN A SOLUTION TO THE VIETNAMESE WAR WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GVN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. ~~WITH THE SUPPORT OF A RESHUFFLED AND ENERGIZED THIEU GOVERNMENT, THEY CAN RETURN TO PARIS AND GET DOWN TO THE TASK OF SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS RESULTING IN AN EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT.~~

~~REPORT CLASS SECRET~~



EO 12958. 3.4(b)(1) >25Yrs (C)

~~SECRET~~