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TO HEADQUARTERS

CAS SAIGON Message  
Number 206

The following is the text of a message from Ambassador Bunker to the Secretary of State released by the Ambassador at 1113 hours, 14 July 1967:

"IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE THIS WEEK, IN WHICH I RECOMMENDED THAT CAS BE GIVEN APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM, I MENTIONED A POLITICAL ALLIANCE WHICH KY AND HIS ADVISORS HAVE BEEN PLANNING. COMPRISED OF HOA HAO, CAO DAI AND VNQDD ELEMENTS, THIS GROUPING HAS BEEN ENVISAGED BY KY AS THE NUCLEUS FOR THE MAIN THRUST IN SUPPORT OF THE THIEU/KY CAMPAIGN. THE BENEFITS THAT A CIVILIAN GROUP IN THIS ROLE AFFORDS ARE MANY: IT HAS, AS WELL, THE POTENTIAL FOR THE BROAD-BASED, POST-ELECTION POLITICAL PARTY WHICH VIETNAM NEEDS.

"PLANS NOW CALL FOR THE PUBLIC LAUNCHING OF THIS ALLIANCE AT A MASS RALLY TO BE HELD IN SAIGON ON AUGUST FIRST, THE OFFICIAL OPENING DAY OF THE CAMPAIGN. OBVIOUSLY THE MORE ACTIVE THIS ALLIANCE BECOMES IN SUPPORT OF THE THIEU/KY CANDIDACIES, THE LESS THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE VULNERABLE TO THE CHARGE OF DEPENDING SOLELY ON ITS MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL POWERS TO INSURE ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER.

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"CAS IS PROPOSING THROUGH ITS OWN CHANNELS THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT BE GIVEN NOW TO THE ALLIANCE TO ALLOW IT TO PUT ITS PLANS IN MOTION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE. AN EQUAL AMOUNT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE THIEU/KY FORCES TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM THROUGH THE CAMPAIGN.

"IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT CONSIDERATION, CAS HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A SELECTED NUMBER OF THEIR PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSETS. IN NO INSTANCE IS THE SUM CONTEMPLATED LARGE, BUT THE SUPPORT WILL ENABLE US TO EXERT SOME POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON THOSE WHO ARE ELECTED TO SEE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT GETS OFF TO AS FAVORABLE A START AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE LISTING OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE GIVEN SUPPORT. I RECOMMEND THAT BOTH OF THE CAS REQUESTS BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON."

END OF MESSAGE

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