

*BEST COPY*

*AVAILABLE*

January 11, 1966

Approved For Release 2000/08/26 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100120087-9

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT

(770) PMS BUDGET

N. G. VIET NAM

BY LEWIS BULLOCK

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, JAN. 11 (AP)—A CONGRESSIONAL PANEL PLANS TO QUESTION CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM F. BARNETT TODAY ON THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED DIRECT U.S. DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH HANOI.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CHIEF WAS TO BRIEF A JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CIA AT MIDNIGHT TODAY ON THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION'S VIET NAM PEACE OFFENSIVE.

SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BRIEF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THIS MORNING ON THE VIET NAM SITUATION. BUT HE LEFT FOR INDIA SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE ARRIVAL OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI.

PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY BILL D. MOYERS DISCLOSED THE U.S.-NORTH-VIETNAMESE CONTACT LATE YESTERDAY BUT REFUSED TO TELL MORE--INCLUDING HOW, WHEN OR WHERE IT CAME ABOUT.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT A U.S. DIPLOMAT MET FOR A FEW MINUTES WITH A HANOI REPRESENTATIVE AND HANDED HIM A MESSAGE CONCERNING U.S. PROPOSALS FOR PEACE IN VIET NAM.

THE TWO OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE EXCHANGED ROUTINE REMARKS, BUT NOT TO HAVE ENGAGED IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.

JOHNSON HAS OFFERED UNCONDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS. TO THIS THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT YET GIVEN ANY SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IT WAS STATED PUBLICLY, THE REDS ARE CONTINUING TO DEBATE THE UNITED STATES AS THE AGGRESSOR IN VIET NAM.

THE U.S.-NORTH-VIETNAMESE CONTACT WERE SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED OVER THE WEEK END. JOHNSON'S SECOND TERM CAMPAIGN BEGAN DEC. 24 WITH THE RALE IN AIR STRIKES ON NORTH VIET NAM TARGETS.

THE DEPART OF THE U.S. DELEGATION THIS TIME--DURING LAST DAY'S MORNING PAUSE IT WAS SAID BY U.S. MESSENGER SENT THROUGH THE BRITISH--HANOI WAS CONSIDERED AS SIGNIFICANT MESSAGE BEING A REPLY FROM THE NORTH-VIETNAMESE CAPITAL.

AT LEAST A DOZEN COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE BOTH U.S. AND NORTH-VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED AT THEIR CAPITALS. WHILE MOYERS DECLINED TO GO INTO THE SITE OF THE CONTACT, HE LIFTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S SECRECY ON ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS SLIGHTLY WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATEMENT OF THREE AMERICANS JUST RETURNED FROM AN UNAUTHORIZED TRIP TO HANOI.

THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID THE THREE--YALE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STANTON LYND AND TWO OTHERS--WERE "INCOMPLETELY INFORMED" IN ASSERTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECT U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT WITH HANOI. MOYERS SAID IT WAS A "SAFE DERIVATION" THAT THERE HAD BEEN DIRECT CONTACT.

MOYERS ALSO SAID U.S. AMBASSADOR-IN-LARGE W. AVERELL HARRISAN IS GOING TO SAIGON, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE RESPONSE WOULD BE IF HARRISAN WERE INVITED TO HANOI.

SENATE ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULED THE DIRECT CONTACT DISCLOSURE DID NOT SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN THE IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC OR MILITARY SITUATION, THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT WEIGHED ALREADY INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT VIET NAM.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER WALTER MONDALE, WHO HEADED A 13-CAPITAL TOUR BY FIVE SENATORS, CALLED THIS NEWS REPORT