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MEMORANDUM

OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

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SECRET/SENSITIVE

August 26, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN D. NEGROPONTE *JAN*

25X1

SUBJECT:

[Redacted box]

25X1

[Redacted box]

-- Ky's status. Thieu asked if Ky could reactivate his candidacy simply by making an announcement to that effect and whether he could legally be elected if something "happened" to Thieu. Linh seemed to think that he could, since Ky's name is legally on the ballot. Thieu commented that Ky had taken an "intelligent" course of action by verbally withdrawing while legally maintaining his candidacy.

-- Thieu's running mate. Thieu asked if he would be disqualified should something happen to his vice presidential running mate at the last moment when it was too late for his alternate vice president's name to be substituted. Linh remarked that he was not sure what would happen in that event.

In conclusion, Thieu noted that the political turmoil resulting from an election postponement would only benefit the Communists, that Minh and Ky were acting together, and that he was determined to hold the election as scheduled with the Thieu and Ky slates on the ballot.

State Dept. review completed

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