

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

LVCC ONLY

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71 APR 20 AM 9:17

WHITE HOUSE

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~ 201200Z APR 71

SITUATION ROOM

25X1

FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, KATHMANDU 0654

TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY HENRY A. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

REF: WHS-1039

1. I AM AWARE OF THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IS CAUSING THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE LAX AND INEFFECTIVE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION HERE WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IT. I HAVE HAD ALSO A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING BY OUR CUSTOMS ADVISORY TEAM.

2. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL BOTH TO CONTROL DRUG TRAFFIC AND TO PRODUCE MORE GOVERNMENT REVENUE.

3. SO FAR THE FOLLOWING STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN:

- A) EARLY IN FEBRUARY I INFORMED THIEU OF THE LARGE AMOUNT OF REVENUE BEING LOST TO THE GVN THROUGH LAX CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION AND URGED HIM TO TAKE MEASURES TO TIGHTEN THE ADMINISTRATION.
- B) IN ADDITION TO THE CUSTOMS BRIEFING I HAVE HAD BACK-UP DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY CHUCK COOPER AND PUT IN FORM FOR PRESENTATION TO BOTH PRIME MINISTER KHIEM AND PRESIDENT THIEU.
- C) I HAVE ASKED SAM BERGER TO TAKE THIS UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THIS WEEK. I PROPOSE TO FOLLOW-UP WITH PRESIDENT THIEU IMMEDIATELY ON MY RETURN NEXT WEEK.
- D) GENERAL ABRAMS AND I HAVE CALLED THIEU'S ATTENTION TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM AND THE REPERCUSSION THIS IS HAVING IN THE U.S. HE HAS AGREED TO CO-OPERATE AND HAS ASKED FOR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS.

4. I WELCOME SUGGESTION OF COMMISSIONER AMBROSE THAT HE SEND INSPECTION TEAM TO SAIGON. THE COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM HE SUGGESTS SEEM IDEAL FOR OUR PURPOSES. THIS WILL REINFORCE WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO.

5. I HAVE ALREADY AUTHORIZED OUR ADVISORY TEAM TO TRY TO GET MORE INTO THE OPERATIONAL SIDE OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION BUT TO EXERCISE CARE NOT TO AROUSE ANTAGONISM OF THE GVN OFFICIALS UNTIL WE CAN WORK OUT PROCEDURE AT HIGHER GOVERNMENT LEVELS.

6. THE OPERATIONAL ASPECT OF OUR ROLE, IF WE ARE TO GET INTO IT, WILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT AT TOP LEVELS. I WILL WANT TO TELL THIEU OF OUR INTENTION TO BRING THE TEAM TO VIETNAM AND OUR DESIRE TO ENGAGE IN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AIMED AT ELIMINATING SMUGGLING, SPECIFICALLY THROTTLING DRUG TRAFFIC AND INCREASING GVN REVENUES. MY JUDGMENT WOULD BE THAT WE WOULD HAVE LESS PROBLEMS GETTING INTO THE OPERATIONAL SIDE OF DRUG TRAFFIC THAN WITH SMUGGLING IN GENERAL. THIEU COULD HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS POLITICALLY BY OPENING HIMSELF TO CHARGES OF GIVING IN ON GVN PREROGATIVES AND SOVEREIGNTY, ESPECIALLY WITH ELECTIONS IN THE OFFING.

State Dept. review  
completed.

7. WITH REGARD TO ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY MAY BE INVOLVED, I DO NOT BELIEVE IN ALLEGATIONS ATTACH TO THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. ONE OF HIS BROTHERS IS IN THE FRAUD REPRESSION SERVICE AT TAN SON NHUT AND THE INFERENCE IS THAT HE MAY HAVE OR HAS KNOWLEDGE OF SMUGGLING. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHERE EVIDENCE SEEMS MORE CONCLUSIVE AND WHO, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD BE REMOVED. THE DIFFICULTY IS TO GET EVIDENCE THAT WILL SUBSTANTIATE WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE FACTS. EVEN IF THE PRIME MINISTER'S BROTHER IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED HIS PRESENCE IN A SITUATION WHICH COULD BE INVOLVED IN A SCANDAL COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND HE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER POST. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ANOTHER BROTHER IN THE SAIGON PORT CUSTOMS. BOTH SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED OUT.

8. THAT THE GVN IS GETTING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG USAGE IS BORNE OUT BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE 8 APRIL CABINET MEETING OF A PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE USE OF NARCOTICS AND TO PUBLICIZE THE DANGER TO THE USERS. HE SAID THE LOWER HOUSE SHOULD BE URGED TO PASS LEGISLATION AGAINST THE TRAFFIC AND USE OF NARCOTICS. HE WILL INSTRUCT PROVINCE CHIEFS TO DEAL HARSHLY WITH SELLERS. AS YOU ARE AWARE MARIJUANA AND HEROIN WERE INTRODUCED INTO VIETNAM WITH THE BUILD-UP OF AMERICAN ~~EFF~~ PREVIOUSLY OPIUM WAS THE ONLY NARCOTIC USED TO ANY DEGREE AND THE VIETNAMESE ARE NOW CONCERNED LEST THE USE OF HEROIN SPREAD TO THEIR OWN TROOPS.

9. ALTHOUGH CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION HAS TIGHTENED UP SINCE THE BEGINNING OF APRIL THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE AND THEN SLIPPED BACK AGAIN. IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH MORE RIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN BY BOTH THE GVN AND US. I DO NOT KNOW HOW CONGRESSMEN STEELE AND MURPHY ARRIVED AT THEIR FIGURE OF 30,000 HEROIN USERS WHICH WOULD BE 10 PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL FORCE. THIS SEEMS TO ME HIGH; MARIJUANA OF COURSE IS MORE WIDELY USED THAN HEROIN. WHATEVER THE FIGURE IT IS TOO HIGH AND WE SHALL HAVE TO MOVE IN ON THE PROBLEM WITHOUT DELAY AND KEEP AT IT UNTIL WE GET RESULTS.

10. AS YOU KNOW I HAVE PLANNED TO STAY IN KATHMANDU THIS WEEK RETURNING TO SAIGON MONDAY, 26TH. IF YOU FEEL THAT I SHOULD RETURN SOONER DO NOT HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW THOUGH NATURALLY I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE MY WEEK HERE.

WARM REGARDS.

**TOP SECRET SENSITIVE**

**EYES ONLY**