

SECRET

-4- 1216, DECEMBER 24, 6 PM FROM SAIGON

REFORMS. I ALSO RECEIVED IMPRESSION HE VERY RELUCTANT TO ADOPT REFORMS AND IS STILL BASICALLY THINKING IN TERMS OF FORCE TO SAVE THE DAY, HENCE HIS INSISTENCE SEVERAL TIMES THAT WE APPROVE FORCE LEVEL INCREASE AND HIS ACTION RAISING CIVIL GUARD CEILING BY 10,000. WHILE I STILL BELIEVE IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL HE ADOPT MORE LIBERAL PROGRAMS, IT IS NOT CERTAIN FROM HIS ATTITUDE AND REMARKS THAT HE WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION IN THESE MATTERS, ALTHOUGH I LEARNED LATER HE HAS AGREED TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERT SUGGESTED BY CAS TO MAKE A SURVEY OF GVN FOREIGN PUBLIC RELATIONS NEEDS.

DURBROW

SGC

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