

-3- 624, SEPTEMBER 16, 6 PM (SECTION TWO OF TWO) FROM SAIGON

MESSAGE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN EARLY OCTOBER. SINCE DIEM USUALLY DELIVERS MESSAGE IN PERSON THIS WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM EFFECT, AND I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IT BE BROADCAST LIVE TO COUNTRY.

10. AT SOME STAGE, PERHAPS ON OCCASION FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ESTABLISHMENT REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON OCTOBER 26, IT MAY BECOME HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER TO ADDRESS A LETTER OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT TO DIEM. DIEM HAS UNDOUBTEDLY NOTICED THAT EISENHOWER LETTER RECENTLY DELIVERED TO SINANOUK. NOT ONLY FOR THIS REASON BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT MAY BECOME VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO GIVE DIEM CONTINUED REASSURANCE OF OUR SUPPORT, PRESIDENTIAL LETTER WHICH COULD BE PUBLISHED HERE MAY PROVE TO BE VERY VALUABLE.

REQUEST ANY ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AND ITS APPROVAL FOR APPROACH TO DIEM ALONG LINES PARAS 1 TO 9.

WE BELIEVE US SHOULD AT THIS TIME SUPPORT DIEM AS BEST AVAILABLE VIETNAMESE LEADER, BUT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT OVERRIDING US OBJECTIVE IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN COMMAND LOYAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF WIDEST POSSIBLE SEGMENTS OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, AND IS ABLE TO CARRY ON EFFECTIVE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. IF DIEM'S POSITION IN COUNTRY CONTINUES DETERIORATE AS RESULT FAILURE ADOPT PROPER POLITICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY MEASURES, IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY FOR US GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION AND LEADERS IN ORDER ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE.

DURBROW

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