

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 1951

CORRECTION ISSUED: 12/8/60,

SECRET

9:45 AM, 61

13- 1151, DECEMBER 4, 2 PM. (SECTION TWO OF TWO) FROM SAIGON  
CORRECTED PAGE 3

FORCE LEVEL WE COULD SO INFORM HIM THEN. BUT IN MEANTIME,  
IN VIEW HIS THREAT TO RAISE FORCE LEVEL UNILATERALLY, I  
SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED SOONEST TO TAUT SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY  
TO STATE WHILE FORCE LEVEL INCREASE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION  
WASHINGTON CANNOT NOW SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO GRANT SUCH INCREASE  
WHEN OTHER MORE IMPORTANT STEPS ARE ESSENTIAL AT PRESENT IN  
FIGHT AGAINST VC AND TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS VIET-NAM.

10. IN SUMMARY, SITUATION IN VIET-NAM IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS  
TO US INTERESTS. COMMUNISTS ARE ENGAGED IN LARGE-SCALE  
GUERRILLA EFFORT TO TAKE OVER COUNTRYSIDE AND OUST DIEM'S  
GOVERNMENT. THEIR ACTIVITIES HAVE STEADILY INCREASED IN  
INTENSITY THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION DIEM IS FACED  
WITH WIDESPREAD POPULAR DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
INABILITY TO STEM THE COMMUNIST TIDE AND ITS OVER-HEAVY-HANDS  
METHODS OF OPERATION. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT IF HE IS TO REMAIN  
IN POWER HE MUST MEET THESE TWO CHALLENGES BY IMPROVEMENTS IN  
HIS METHODS OF CONDUCTING WAR AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND IN  
VIGOROUS ACTION TO BUILD GREATER POPULAR SUPPORT. WE SHOULD  
HELP AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION. SHOULD HE  
NOT DO SO, WE MAY WELL BE FORCED, IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE,  
TO UNDERTAKE DIFFICULT TASK OF IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING  
ALTERNATE LEADERSHIP.

THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT FOR DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

DURBROW

MB

NOTE: READ BY MR. CLARK (FE), 11:30 AM, 12/4/60, CVO-M.

SECRET

LIMITED DIST.

1339