

TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CORRECTION ISSUED:
10/17/60 6:30 AM VS
Control: 8208
Red'd: October 15, 1960
6:23 AM

FROM: SAIGON - CORRECTED PAGE 1

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE

NO: 802, OCTOBER 15, 6 AM

SENT DEPARTMENT 802. REPEATED INFORMATION CINCPAC POLAD 122

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

DEPTEL 581

DIEM RECEIVED ME ON 14TH FOR HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES WHICH PERMITTED ME
OUTLINE NEW PROPOSALS TRAIN CIVIL GUARD AND HAVE FRANK DISCUSSION RE
SUGGESTED STEPS TO AMELIORATE DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION.

AFTER OUTLINING NEW PROPOSALS FOR CIVIL GUARD, WHICH PLEASED HIM VERY
MUCH (REPORTED IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM), IN WHICH THUAN TOOK PART, I
SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
WITH HIM ALONE. THUAN LEFT. I THEN READ COPY, CONTAINING SUGGESTIONS
AGREED TO BY DEPARTMENT IN REPTTEL (ENGLISH TEXT BY POUCH). /BEFORE
READING TEXT I STATED THAT ON OCTOBER 13 I HAD BEEN IN VIETNAM FOR
THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS, HAD FOUND MY ASSIGNMENT EDIFYING, INTERESTING,
AND MOST WORTHWHILE. I MENTIONED SOLID AND WORTHWHILE PROGRESS I HAD
NOTED IN COUNTRY SINCE 1957 AND CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT ON HIS MANY FINE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I THEN STATED THAT SINCE I ADMIRER HIS COURAGE AND
DETERMINATION I PERSONALLY DESIRED TO DO ALL I COULD TO HELP HIM,
PARTICULARLY IN THESE TRYING TIMES. I ADDED I PERSONALLY, AND OTHER
FRIENDS OF HIS HERE AS WELL AS THOSE IN WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN GIVING
MUCH THOUGHT ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO HIM. RESULTS OF OUR
THINKING LED TO CONCLUSION THAT WE COULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WE SHOULD
MAKE SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS WHICH I COULD PUT TO HIM IN A FRANK MANNER AS
A FRIEND. I THEN READ THE PAPER. /

DIEM LISTENED INTENTLY AND MADE NO COMMENTS WHILE I WAS READING EXCEPT
TO REMARK AFTER I HAD SUGGESTED HE MIGHT GET RID OF MINISTERS WHO HAD
NOT CARRIED OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, BY SAYING HARDEST THING TO DO
IS TO GET QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO WILL TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES.

WHEN I FINISHED READING PRESIDENT STATED THAT MOST OF SUGGESTIONS I HAD
MADE CONFORMED TO HIS BASIC IDEAS, BUT ADDED AS MUCH AS HE WOULD LIKE
TO PUT THESE INTO EFFECT, STEPPED-UP ACTIVITIES OF THE VIET CONG MADE IT
MOST DIFFICULT. HE ADDED THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INTIMIDATED BY VIET
CONG AND SOME HAD BEEN WON OVER SO THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CARRY
OUT SOME OF STEPS REGARDING COUNTRYSIDE. I REPLIED WHILE I REALIZED
DIFFICULTIES I WAS FIRMLY CONVINCED AFTER MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THAT
IT ESSENTIAL NOW TO TAKE MANY IF NOT ALL OF THESE SUGGESTED STEPS ON A

1323

TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE