



Department of State <sup>SOC 11-5</sup> TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
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SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT THIEU ON ANTI-NARCOTIC AND ANTI-SMUGGLING CAMPAIGN.

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT THIEU DECEMBER 21, ACCOMPANIED BY BERGER, TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE VIETNAMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS AND ANTI-SMUGGLING CAMPAIGN. I SAID IT HAD GOT OFF TO A GOOD START IN MAY, WHEN THERE WAS A GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY, BUT HAD LOST ITS MOMENTUM IN RECENT MONTHS AND WAS IN NEED OF A NEW INITIATIVE, AND MORE ENERGETIC DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION BY HIM.

2. I THEN WENT INTO DETAILS:

A. THE MEN HE HAD APPOINTED TO HEAD THE CAMPAIGNS-- ADMIRAL CANG, COMMISSIONER QUI OF THE POLICE FORCE, AND COLONEL KHANH, THE NEW CUSTOMS DIRECTOR--WERE GOOD AND HARD-WORKING MEN, HAD CREATED MORE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS, WERE GIVING US GOOD COOPERATION, AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS. THEIR PROBLEMS WERE SABOTAGE OF THEIR EFFORTS, BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA AND THE ABSENCE OF SUSTAINED PRESSURE THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE THE CAMPAIGNS WITH ENERGY, VIGOR AND IMAGINATION.

B. I CALLED ATTENTION TO THE AREAS OF WEAKNESS:

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PA/HO, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
June 22, 2004

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June 22, 2004

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C. FINALLY, I MADE REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO DEVELOP REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, TO ACTIVELY PRESS FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE NEW NARCOTICS BILL, AND TO RATIFY VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONVENTION TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE. I ENDED BY URGING ON HIM THE NECESSITY FOR HIM PERSONALLY TO REINVIGORATE THE PROGRAM IN THE VARIOUS AREAS WHERE WEAKNESS EXISTED. I ASKED HIM TO CALL IN ADMIRAL CANG, COMMISSIONER QUI AND COLONEL KHANH TO LEARN AT FIRST HAND THE DIFFICULTIES THEY WERE ENCOUNTERING, AND TO CALL IN THE SERVICE CHIEFS AND THE JUDICIARY, AND THE AMBASSADORS OF THAILAND AND KOREA.

3. THIEU TOOK NO ISSUE WITH WHAT WE HAD TO SAY AND MADE NOTES. I SHALL FOLLOW UP WITH AN AIDE MEMOIRE. I LEFT HIM IN NO DOUBT BUT THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, WE WERE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE EFFORT SO FAR.

BUNKER

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