OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

17575 72

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

Comm. Ant Pack 12

[redacted] - EYES ONLY

W 1d

M

WWM Date 11/29/74

Origin SS

Info

AUG 29 5 03 PM '63

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON EMERGENCY 272 EYES ONLY

TOP SECRET EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE & GENERAL HARKINS
INFO: CINCPAC POLAD--Exclusive for Admiral Felt

1. Highest level meeting noon today reviewed your 375 and reaffirmed basic course. Specific decisions follow:

President Kennedy

2. In response to your recommendation, General Harkins is hereby authorized to repeat to such Generals as you indicate the messages ~~xxxx~~ previously transmitted by CAS officers. He should stress that the USG supports the movement to eliminate the Nhus from the government, but that before arriving at specific understandings with the Generals, General Harkins must know who are involved, resources available to them and overall plan for coup. The USG will support a coup which has good chance of succeeding but plans no direct involvement of U. S. Armed Forces. Harkins should state that he is prepared to establish liaison with the coup planners and to review plans, but will not engage directly in joint coup planning.

3. Question of last approach to Diem remains undecided and separate personal message from Secretary to you develops our concerns and asks your comment.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. [illegible]

EYES ONLY

Drafted by: Text Received from White House | By | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: S/S - JAMcKesson

Clearances:

The Secretary
FE - RHilsman

[redacted] - EYES ONLY

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FORM S-61 DS-322

[redacted]

4. On movement of U. S. forces, we do not expect to make any announcement or leak at present and believe that any later decision to publicize such movements should be closely connected to developing events on your side. We cannot of course prevent unauthorized disclosures or speculation, but we will in any event knock down any reports of evacuation.

5. You are hereby authorized to announce suspension of aid through Diem Government at a time and under conditions of your choice. In deciding upon use of this authority, you should consider importance of timing and managing announcement so as to minimize appearance of collusion with Generals, and also to minimize danger of unpredictable and disruptive reaction by existing government. We also assume that you will not in fact use this authority unless you think it essential, and we see it as possible that Harkins' approach and increasing process of cooperation may provide assurance Generals desire. Our own view is that it will be best to hold this authority for use in close conjunction with coup, and not for present encouragement of Generals, but decision is yours.

GP-1.

END

RUSK

NOTE: Passed to the White House, OSD, CIA with special captions

[redacted]

E.O. [redacted] or (E)

By _____ NARS, Date _____