



UN Secretariat Item Scan - Barcode - Record Title

Page

8

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30/05/2006

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Title **Items-in-Peace-keeping operations - Vietnam - correspondence
with: President Johnson**

Date Created **03/03/1965**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0871-0001: Peace-Keeping Operations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant - Viet-Nam**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

82 11/10/68 10:10

PRESIDENT TITO'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON

CONCERNING EVENTS IN VIET NAM.

Pl. file
3/3
Lucian

Mr. President,

I have learned from agency reports that American and South Vietnamese aircraft today again bombed the territory of North Vietnam. Sharing the general concern with which the whole world has lately followed the aggravation of the conflict in Vietnam, I consider it necessary to convey to you the profound conviction of the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and my own, that the repeated acts of bombing of the territory of the D.R. of Vietnam by the forces of the United States of America, while assuming the nature of adopted practice, carry with them a real threat of extended war.

The view maintained by the Government of the United States of America that the longstanding conflict in South Vietnam has its cause in interference by the neighbouring D.R. of Vietnam, not in internal conditions, aspirations and feelings of the people, apparently leads it to the conclusion that solution lies in taking military actions against this state and over its territory. In our view, this is a very dangerous conclusion as it threatens to lead to a serious extension of the conflict with unforeseeable consequences.

The Yugoslav peoples and Government share the opinion expressed at the Cairo Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries and repeated from many quarters lately, that it is both possible and indispensable to find a way out of the crisis in south-east Asia, with an urgent cessa-

tion of all actions leading to an extension of the war and all acts which might deteriorate the situation. The contacts which the Yugoslav Government has been having lately with a series of countries in connection with this question satisfy me that the only way which can prevent spreading of the conflict is to approach, without delay, negotiations to find out a political solution, without any previous conditions from whatever side.

Bearing in mind that the maintenance and ensurance of peace, beyond doubt, is the paramount duty and interest of all countries, I appeal to you, Mr. President, to respond to these expectations, deeply convinced that it would be of direct benefit also to your people and government, while the whole world would welcome it with relief.

Sincerely yours,

Josip Broz Tito

8 April 1965

Dear Mr. President,

Permit me to say that I listened to your speech on the Viet Nam situation last night with very great interest. I was particularly impressed by your appeal for "a greatly expanded cooperative effort for development" on behalf of the countries in the Mekong River area of South East Asia, including, of course, North Viet Nam. I welcome this approach and am grateful for your references to the United Nations and to me in connection with it. I find it positive, forward-looking and generous. As you know, my recent thinking has been along similar lines.

Also, Mr. President, if I may say so, I regard your indication of a readiness to enter into "unconditional discussions" as both constructive and statesmanlike. I feel sure that it will prove to be very helpful.

It may well be, Mr. President, that your speech will mark a turning point in the long-standing Viet Nam conflict. I certainly hope so. You may be sure that I will continue to contribute all that I can to the efforts toward a peaceful settlement.

With warm personal regards,

I remain

Sincerely yours,

U Thant

The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

cc: Mr. & Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson



on ✓

THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

April 8, 1965

C O P Y

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I am greatly encouraged by your generous letter about my speech last night. It is particularly good to know that we think alike on the need for cooperative development in Southeast Asia. This afternoon I am meeting with Mr. Eugene Black and senior members of my Administration, and I will ask Mr. Black to be in touch with you at once so that we can work together in this hopeful direction.

I also welcome your assurance of your own continuing concern for a peaceful settlement in Vietnam, and I am asking Ambassador Stevenson to keep in the closest possible touch with you on this matter so that no opportunity for forward progress is missed.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

/s/ Lyndon B. Johnson

His Excellency
U Thant,
Secretary General
of the United Nations.



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

YUkon 6-2424

April 8, 1965

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I enclose the text of the letter to you from the President, which he asked to have conveyed tonight. We will send you the original as soon as it arrives. The President did not release publicly the sentence about Mr. Black.

Also enclosed is the text of the United States reply to the seventeen nation appeal, which is being delivered today.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard F. Pedersen".

Richard F. Pedersen
Minister

His Excellency
U Thant,
Secretary General of
the United Nations.

Text of U. S. Reply to 17-Nation Appeal

We welcome the concern and interest of the governments participating in the declaration of March 15; just as we welcome any initiative aimed at bringing peace to any part of the world. The declaration is a constructive contribution to the effort for peace.

We fully agree with the general principles expressed in that declaration. The fulfillment of those principles, which are an essential part of American policy everywhere, is the purpose of our presence in Viet-Nam.

The declaration reaffirms the right of all people to self-determination. And so do we. We seek self-determination for the people of South Viet-Nam.

The declaration reaffirms the belief that recourse to force is contrary to the rights of the people of Viet-Nam to peace, freedom and independence. And so do we. We seek to bring peace and help restore those rights.

The signatory nations point out that they are "deeply concerned" at the aggravation of the situation in Viet-Nam.

We hope that the anger of people in every country will extend to those who commit these daily acts of violence in the South. We hope that the sympathy and compassion of every land will be held out to these victims of unprovoked attack. These are men and women, and even children, who die because they are attacked--not because they are attackers.

The Way To Peace

Peace in Southeast Asia demands an independent South Viet-Nam--securely guaranteed and able to shape its own relationships to all others--free from outside interference--tied to no alliance--a military base for no other country.

These are the essentials of any final settlement.

We will never be second in the search for such a peaceful settlement in Viet-Nam.

There may be many ways to this kind of peace: in discussion or negotiation with the governments concerned, in large groups or in small ones, in the reaffirmation of old agreements or their strengthening with new ones.

We have stated this position over and over again, to friend and foe alike. And we remain ready--with this purpose--for unconditional discussions.

We believe that peace can be achieved in Southeast Asia the moment that aggression from North Viet-Nam is eliminated. That aggression has many

elements. It has meant the training and infiltration of agents and armed forces--the procurement and supply of munitions--the bombing of compounds by night and Embassies by day--murdering secretaries and soldiers alike--in short, a whole campaign of terror and military action that is externally supported and directed. When these things stop, and the obstacles to security and stability are removed, the need for American supporting military action will also come to an end.

And when conditions have been created in which the people of South Viet-Nam can determine their own future free from any external interference, the United States will be ready and eager to withdraw its forces from South Viet-Nam. At that same time, it should become possible to work out the future relationships between North and South Viet-Nam on the basis of mutual respect and a determination to resolve their problems by peaceful means.

Because the aggressor has made great efforts to hide his actions, it will also be important to have new ways and means of assurance that aggression has in fact been stopped. The problems of such control and assurance are not easy. But these difficulties are not at the center of the problem. The center of the problem is in the realities of behavior. Those realities are known and felt today in South Viet-Nam. They are known and understood by those who are responsible for them. It is by their ending in fact that the actions of the United States Government will be governed.

Economic Development

We also hope that the nations of the world can join in helping the countries of Southeast Asia in their own efforts to improve the life of their people.

We have offered our help for a large-scale program of economic development embracing all of Southeast Asia. We hope that other industrialized nations will join.

We are glad of this declaration. We believe that the nations which signed it are motivated by a deep and sincere purpose of peace. That is our purpose too. We hope it is shared by all others who are affected by this declaration.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Note No. 3092
8 April 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

A United Nations spokesman made the following statement today:

The Secretary-General listened with very great interest to the speech of President Johnson on the Viet-Nam situation on Wednesday night, 7 April. Noting particularly the references to the United Nations in the President's appeal for a "greatly expanded co-operative effort for development" on behalf of the countries of South-East Asia, particularly in the Mekong River area, including, of course, North Viet-Nam, the Secretary-General has sent a personal note to the President commenting on his speech. In the note, the Secretary-General welcomed the President's appeal as "positive, forward-looking and generous".

The Secretary-General, in his note, also expressed the view that the President's announcement of his Government's readiness to enter into "unconditional discussions" was "both constructive and statesmanlike", and that it would prove to be very helpful. As is known, this position is in keeping with that advocated by the Secretary-General for some time and is also welcomed by him as a favourable response to the recent appeal of the 17 Heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries.

The Secretary-General assured the President that he will continue his efforts toward a peaceful settlement.

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The Secretary-General assured the President that he will continue his efforts toward a peaceful settlement.

* *** *

Statement by United Nations Spokesman

The Secretary-General listened with very great interest to the speech of President Johnson on the Viet Nam situation on Wednesday night, April 7. Noting particularly the references to the United Nations in the President's appeal for a "greatly expanded cooperative effort for development" on behalf of the countries of South East Asia, particularly in the Mekong River area, including, of course, North Viet Nam, the Secretary-General has sent a personal note to the President commenting on his speech. In the note, the Secretary-General welcomed the President's appeal as "positive, forward looking and generous".

The Secretary-General in his note also expressed the view that the President's announcement of his Government's readiness to enter into "unconditional discussions" was "both constructive and statesmanlike" and that it would prove to be very helpful. As is known, this position is in keeping with that advocated by the Secretary-General for some time and is also welcomed by him as a favorable response to the recent Appeal of the Seventeen Heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries.

The Secretary-General assured the President that he will continue his efforts toward a peaceful settlement.

*Pl. sentry.
Modified. 9/14*

Draft Statement by UN Spokesman

The Secretary-General has noted that President Johnson is asking Mr. Eugene Black to get in touch with him in connection with the need for cooperative development in Southeast Asia.

There is as yet no specific plan on Southeast Asia to consult upon, of course. The Secretary-General has indicated that he is devoting urgent attention to this matter but that the formulation of a specific plan will require very serious thought and much consultation. Governor Stevenson and Mr. Black will, of course, be among the first to be consulted on this subject.

UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations, N.Y.

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Note No. 3094
9 April 1965

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

A United Nations spokesman made the following statement today:

"The Secretary-General has noted that President Johnson is asking Mr. Eugene Black to get in touch with him in connexion with the need for co-operative development in South-East Asia.

"There is as yet no new specific plan on South-East Asia to consult upon, of course, although there is the existing United Nations Lower Mekong River programme, being carried out by the Mekong Committee (consisting of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Republic of Viet-Nam) under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and to which 21 countries (including the United States) and 12 United Nations units or agencies are providing assistance, in addition to the four riparian States.

"The Secretary-General has indicated that he is devoting urgent attention to the matter of a new and broader approach but that the formulation of a specific plan of this kind will require serious thought and wide consultations. Ambassador Stevenson and Mr. Black will, of course, be among the first to be consulted on this subject."

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UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M., EDT,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1965

Press Release No. 4609
July 28, 1965

Following is the text of a letter from the President of the United States to the Secretary General of the United Nations:

"Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I want you to know from me directly of the very great personal confidence which I place in Ambassador Goldberg. His appointment as Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations -- and his acceptance of this responsibility in the circumstances -- is, I hope, strong evidence that this Government places the very highest importance on the work of the United Nations and will continue to give it our utmost support.

I have instructed Ambassador Goldberg especially to maintain close contact with you on the situation in Viet-Nam. Your efforts in the past to find some way to remove that dispute from the battlefield to the negotiating table are much appreciated and highly valued by my Government. I trust they will be continued.

Meanwhile, as I stated publicly last April, the Government of the United States is prepared to enter into negotiations for peaceful settlement without conditions. That remains our policy.

And as I stated in San Francisco last month, we hope that the Members of the United Nations, individually and collectively, will use their influence to bring to the negotiating table all governments involved in an attempt to halt all aggression and evolve a peaceful solution. I continue to hope that the United Nations can, in fact, be effective in this regard.

I hope that you will communicate to us, through Ambassador Goldberg, any helpful suggestions that may occur to you that can strengthen our common search for the road to peace in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson."

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U N I T E D N A T I O N S

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE

Not to be used before
6 p.m. EDT, 29 July

Press Release SG/SM/342
29 July 1965

TEXT OF LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Following is the text of a letter dated 29 July, from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to President Lyndon B. Johnson of the United States:

"It was my great pleasure yesterday afternoon to receive Ambassador Goldberg and welcome him to the United Nations, and at the same time to have from his hand the letter which you addressed to me, for which I thank you most warmly.

"Your letter gives me much satisfaction and encouragement, not only as evidence of the very great personal confidence which you have in Ambassador Goldberg, but also as reassurance that your Government attaches highest importance to the work of the United Nations and will continue to give the United Nations its utmost support.

"It is particularly gratifying to know that you have instructed Ambassador Goldberg especially to maintain close contact with me on the situation in Viet-Nam. For my part, of course, I will keep closely in touch with him on all important issues relating to international peace. Knowing the very great importance which I attach in the present circumstances to the question of Viet-Nam, you may rest assured that I look forward to continuous mutual consultation on this issue.

"In this connexion, Mr. President, please allow me to thank you for your kind words about my efforts in the past to find some way to remove the dispute over Viet-Nam from the battlefield to the negotiating table. I am heartened by your wish that my efforts should be continued, and I gladly assure you of my determination to pursue them by all the means at my disposal, since I believe most strongly that concerted efforts should be made to put an early end to all further hostile military activities.

"I shall, of course, be pleased to communicate to you through Ambassador Goldberg, in accordance with your wish, any further suggestions which I would consider helpful in bringing peace to South-East Asia."

* * * * *

Personal.

10 January 1966

My dear Mr. President,

I am asking Ambassador Goldberg to be so kind as to deliver this message to you personally, since he has told me that he plans to go to Washington tomorrow.

It was very good of you to have Ambassador Goldberg come in to see me, immediately after my return from a week's absence, to inform me fully about the various aspects of the initiative you have taken towards bringing to a peaceful end the distressing situation in Vietnam.

My position on the various aspects of the Vietnam question has been made known to you and your distinguished predecessor over the past two years through my discussions with your representatives at the United Nations. You will readily appreciate, therefore, that I warmly welcome every effort designed to move the Vietnam conflict from the battleground to the conference table. I most earnestly hope that the efforts which you are now making in this direction will lead to a peaceful settlement of this tragic problem.

You are, of course, well aware also of my position with regard to the cessation of bombing and therefore you will know that I look with favour upon the present pause in the bombing; the more particularly so, since no time limit has been indicated for the present pause, which

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

is consistent with my conviction that any such pause, if it is to have the intended effect, must be of indefinite duration.

I wish to thank you again, Mr. President, for keeping me fully informed of your efforts towards finding a peaceful solution to the war in Vietnam.

W. A. B. W.

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THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

His Excellency
U Thant,
Secretary General,
United Nations.

January 15, 1966

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

Thank you for sending me your views in your letter of January 10 which Ambassador Goldberg has handed me.

I much appreciate your words of welcome for our efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam dispute and your expression of hope for success.

Of course I am also glad that you look with favor on our present pause in the bombing with no announced time limit. As you are aware, we have conveyed to Hanoi our desire to suspend the bombing and indicated that a reciprocal action on its part would have a favorable effect on possible extension of the suspension of the bombing and contribute toward peace.

I remain eager to exhaust every possible means of bringing the parties to the negotiating table. I want to be certain that every possible opportunity is afforded the other side to hear, comprehend and answer our pleas for peace.

I continue to hope you will do whatever you can to help bring an end to the tragic conflict in Vietnam. I want to express also my continuing appreciation for your untiring efforts in the cause of peace in Vietnam and elsewhere in the world.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Lyndon B. Johnson

His Excellency
U Thant,
Secretary General,
United Nations

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7105
31 January 1966

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to request that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be called promptly to consider the situation in Viet-Nam.

As you know, the United States Government has, time and time again, patiently and tirelessly sought a peaceful settlement of this conflict on the basis of unconditional negotiations and the Geneva Accords of 1954. We have done so both inside and outside the United Nations.

In President Johnson's letter of 28 July 1965, to the Secretary-General, in my letter of 30 July 1965 to the President of the Security Council, and in my letter of 4 January 1966 to the Secretary-General, we appealed for whatever help in ending the conflict the Security Council and its members or any other organ of the United Nations might be able to give. We have also been in constant touch with the Secretary-General in order to keep him fully informed and to seek his counsel and assistance. A great number of United Nations Members, acting jointly or separately, have with our earnest encouragement sought to find a means of moving the conflict from the battlefield to the conference table.

As you are also aware, because my Government was advised by many others that a pause in the bombing of North Viet-Nam might contribute to the acceptance by its Government of our offer of unconditional negotiations, we did suspend bombing on 24 December and continued that suspension for some thirty-seven days. At the same time, President Johnson dispatched several high-ranking representatives to explain to His Holiness The Pope and to the Chiefs of State or Heads of Government of a number of States our most earnest desire to end the conflict peacefully and promptly. Our views were set forth in fourteen points which were communicated to a very large number of Governments and later published and which were summarized in the third paragraph of my letter of 4 January 1966 to the Secretary-General.

I should like to repeat that summary to you as follows:

"That the United States is prepared for discussions or negotiations without any prior conditions whatsoever or on the basis of the Geneva Accords of 1954 and 1962, that a reciprocal reduction of hostilities could be envisaged and that a cease-fire might be the first order of business in any discussions or negotiations, that the United States remains prepared to withdraw its forces from South Viet-Nam as soon as South Viet-Nam is in a position to determine its own future without external interference, that the United States desires no continuing military presence or bases in Viet-Nam, that the future political structure in South Viet-Nam should be determined by the South Viet-Namese people themselves through democratic processes, and that the question of the reunification of the two Viet-Nams should be decided by the free decision of their two peoples."

Subsequently, the President in his State of the Union Address on 12 January reiterated once again our willingness to consider at a conference or in other negotiations any proposals which might be put forward by others. I am authorized to inform the Council that these United States views were transmitted both directly and indirectly to the Government of North Viet-Nam and were received by that Government.

Unhappily, there has been no affirmative response whatsoever from Hanoi to our efforts to bring the conflict to the negotiating table, to which so many Governments lent their sympathy and assistance. Instead, there have been from Hanoi, and of course from Peking as well, merely the familiar charges that our peace offensive, despite the prolonged bombing pause, was merely a "fraud" and a "swindle" deserving no serious consideration. The most recent response seemed to be that set forth in President Ho Chi Minh's letter to certain Heads of State which was broadcast from Hanoi on 28 January. In this letter President Ho Chi Minh made quite clear his unwillingness at this time to proceed with unconditional negotiations; on the contrary, he insisted on a number of preconditions which would in effect require the United States to accept Hanoi's solution before negotiations had even begun. This is obviously unacceptable.

Therefore, Mr. President, my Government has concluded that it should now bring this problem with all its implications for peace formally before the Security Council. We are mindful of the discussions over the past months among the members of the Council as to whether a formal meeting could usefully be held in the context

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of other efforts then in train. We are also aware that it may not be easy for the Council itself, in view of all the obstacles, to take constructive action on this question. We are firmly convinced, however, that in light of its obligations under the Charter to maintain international peace and security and the failure so far of all efforts outside the United Nations to restore peace, the Council should address itself urgently and positively to this situation and exert its most vigorous endeavours and its immense prestige to finding a prompt solution to it.

We hope that the members of the Security Council will agree that our common dedication to peace and our common responsibility for the future of mankind require no less. In this connexion, we are mindful of the renewed appeal of His Holiness The Pope only two days ago in which he suggested that "an arbitration of the United Nations confided to neutral nations might tomorrow - we would like to hope even today - resolve this terrible question".

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Arthur J. GOLDBERG

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PRESS

OMNIPRESS

NEWYORK=

UNDIC 171 HO FROM STAJDUHAR. PRESIDENT JOHNSONS VISIT TO UN HEADQUARTERS WAS LEAD ITEM IN MORNING BULLETIN OF AIR. NEWSCAST INCLUDED JOHNSONS STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN HAT MEETING WAS STIMULATING AND SEC GEN STATEMENT THAT JOHNSONS VISIT WAS SYMBOLIC ACT OF SUPPORT FOR UN AND QUOTE HIS=

P2=

TALKS ON VIETNAM PROVIDED NO BASIS FOR EITHER OPTIMISM OR PESSIMISM UNQUOTE. PARA SWARAN SINGHS ADDRESS TO GENASSEMBLY WAS FRONT PAGE STORY IN MORNING PAPERS HEADLINES LAY STRESS ON SWARAN SINGHS CALL FOR END TO NORTH VIETNAM BOMBING . PARA PAPERS CARRY TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN KATHMANDU

P3=

ON TALKS BETWEEN INDIAN PRIME MINISTER AND KING OF NEPAL . ON VIETNAM ISSUE TIS REPORTED MRS GANDHI AND KING MAHENDRA REAFFIRMED THEIR BELIEF THAT IMMEDIATE STOPPING OF US BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE FIRST STEP TO STARTING OF PEACE TALKS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ULTIMATE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT SHOULD=

P4/36=

BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASPIRATIONS OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND WITHIN BROAD FRAMEWORK OF 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENT PARA PAPERS ALSO CARRY BRIEF SUMMARY STATEMENTS BY SWARAN SINGH AND SEC GEN AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY FORMER=

OMNIPRESS NEWDELHI+

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