

July 2, 1967

MEMO for The Vice President

From Ted Van Dyk

Re: Press Backgrounder - 6 p.m.

List of Participants: Please see attached.

Note that some of those present are Koreans who are stringers for American publications. Therefore, you may wish to take this into account in your remarks.

Ground Rules: This is a backgrounder, with no quotation or attribution to you. The subject matter can, however, be handled in connection with stories concerning your visit here. No on-the-record statements, even for a portion of the meeting.

Suggested Points:

Korea: This is a country on the move - at the point of "take off." You are very much impressed with the determination shown by President Park to move his country forward both economically and toward political democracy. You were especially impressed with his inaugural address - which might well be the model for that of almost any President in any developing or less than fully developed country. You are also impressed with your visit to the Korean Institute for Science and Technology -- which also might serve as a model for other countries throughout the world. Korea is engaged in nation building and is doing it the right way. The United States is proud to help.

Your Conversation with National Leaders in Seoul: All your discussions were frank, open, and useful. This includes your discussions with President Park, Prime Minister Sato, Vice President Yen, and General Chieu, Secretary-General of the Directorate in South Vietnam.

There was a time when our country was not in proper communication or contact with the nations of the Far East. Hopefully, that time is ended. You hope your discussions helped.

*Far East Intelligence & RBS*

*KISI*  
*President*  
*Address*  
*Business*  
*Agree*

Kosygin LBJ  
mid-East

Subject Matter:

A. Vietnam - As might be expected, Vietnam is on the minds of Asian leaders. They all know that what happens in Vietnam affects them.

elections

Clearly, a critical period lies ahead between now and the elections in September. It is imperative that these elections be open and free. It is far less important who wins than that the elections be democratic and real. The recent agreement of Generals Thieu and Ky should help unite the military and should give them the inside track in the election itself. But by no means is their election certain.

The Government of South Vietnam is certainly aware that the United States and her free Asian neighbors very much hope for free and open elections, and that they would be uniformly disappointed if they were not so.

Following this, you might wish to briefly review the situation as you see it in Vietnam, giving some of the points passed on to you by Chieu. That is, we are moving forward militarily and economically, but still with difficulties in pacification and in the guerrilla war.

We shall have to continue practicing some traditional Asian patience.

B. Regional Development - In all your discussions, you emphasized the need for greater participation of all Asian countries in regional economic and social development. This is increasing but much more is needed. The United States is ready to increase its participation in such development, but primary leadership must come from Asians themselves.

Certainly, progress has been made in this field since your visits of a year ago. You hope you have been of some help in moving the regional development concept forward both in Washington and in Asia. Such development, as exemplified by Nationalist China and Korea, must be balanced - with proper emphasis on agriculture as well as industry. People are what count - and grandiose prestige projects do not suffice.

ASAC  
Bank  
ECATK

✓

C. Asia in the World - In all your discussions, you were pleasantly surprised to find Asian leaders interested in matters far beyond their own borders and region. This reflects not only the world's increasing awareness of Asia, but of a new Asian international consciousness and responsibility. The energetic, industrious people of this region are breaking free from old patterns, and so are their leaders. You found no pettiness or small-mindedness among them. ✓

D. The Future - What can we see ahead? We are today transfixed with Vietnam. And Vietnam is important. But one day the conflict in Vietnam will end and there will be a just and peaceful settlement. There is no telling how long ahead that may be but it will surely happen, because we will persevere until it does.

When that conflict is ended, and as - over the course of time - Communist China may begin to moderate and lose her ideological ferocity, this area can look ahead to an era of peace and growth.

Events in China today indicate a continuation of militancy. But let us keep our perspective. Surely, a generation of technicians and of managers will in the years immediately ahead take the place of the generation of ideologists. Until that time, we in the United States shall undertake no act which might jeopardize our future peaceful relations with more pacific China.

When such moderation might take place in China, <sup>developed and</sup> a great tension will be removed from the world. And <sup>developing</sup> nations alike might be able to turn aside from questions of ideology to questions of human and national development.

Taking the long view may be more statesman-like than taking the short view, but it is also necessary if we are to keep our balance. If we do, and major war is averted in the years immediately ahead, the next twenty years may be known in history as the ones in which Asia re-emerged in a role of cultural, economic and political leadership in the world. If this were to happen, it would be in our national interest. It is our policy to help it happen.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TO : TED

FROM: OFIELD

TAPE IS OF THE V.P.'S

BACKGROUNDER IN KOREA.

ALSO, TEXT OF BACKGROUNDER.

*Background*

Vice President Hubert Humphrey Press ~~Conference~~, July 2, 1967

Gentlemen, you know that my visit here was essentially for the purpose of representing President Johnson and the United States at the inaugural of President Park. That's essentially a ceremonial visit and it was a an opportunity that I welcomed. I've been here twice before on very short visits but rather meaningful ones and I have come to know the President, the Prime Minister and members of the government and thought it was a good opportunity to renew those valuable contacts and acquaintances and refresh that acquaintanceship. During my visit here outside of the things that are quite obvious such as getting around the community a bit and a little later this evening I shall be meeting with Korean businessmen and professional and education leaders in order to have a broader mix of my contacts so to speak outside of those obvious and evident gatherings I have been trying to converse with leaders of government that are here and other representatives of governments on problems of mutual concern. In my first visit with President Park, and I shall by the way see him again tomorrow as well as the Prime Minister of Korea tomorrow, I reviewed with President Park the Kosygin visit or the Kosygin-Johnson conference at Glassboro, New Jersey in considerable detail. I felt that allies such as we have here ought to be fully informed as to what transpired at that conference. I was privileged to be well briefed on it by the President/~~Mr.~~ Johnson, before I came and I shared that knowledge or that information; with President Park and subsequently with Prime Minister Sato and with others with whom I've ~~talked~~ talked but in great depth with both of them. The areas of discussion at that conference were gone into and as a result we related our conversations to those areas such as the Vietnam, the Middle East, nuclear proliferation, arms control which relates to the offense and defensive missiles, many areas of economic cooperation. The discussion

*of course*

with President Park also included a general review of our economic and military efforts here in cooperation with the ROK and later ~~was~~ on as you know in that same day was on Friday I visited the KIST. I want to say just a word about that. That was much more to me than a perfunctory visit. I feel that this particular institute has a great bearing on the future economic development of Korea and it may very well ;have a bearing on ;the economic on other parts developments/of Asia. It is industry oriented; it is an institute of science and technology related to applied research and development . It can represent a tremendous input in the Korean economy. A shot in the arm, so to speak, because it will not only ;emphasize science and technology but also management and administration and it will be directly related to the economic complexes that are designed and developed here either with domestic capital ~~but~~ that is Korean capital ~~but~~ or a mix of Korean and American ~~capital~~ capital or foreign capital of other nations. And ~~if~~ I happen to believe that our experience with these sorts of establishments gives evidence that such an institute can be more ~~x~~ as valuable as any possible economic assistance that you can make. Or that you can afford. The . A good deal of our discussion with the Vice President of China, Prime Minister ~~of~~ Sato of Japan and President Park and Prime Minister Chong related to the initiatives that are being taken here in Asia for their own development and for their own , under their own direction. Particularly the ASPAC, the Asian Pacific Conference which was at its first meeting in Seoul and now will have its ~~w~~ second meeting in Bangkok. That consultative process and now formulated more or less into a council is looked upon by the administration in Washington the Johnson Administration, as a very important effort and initiative. I've emphasized to the leaders that I have visited with that ~~k~~ the US today has a man in the White House who looked upon Asia as a very vital energetic, restless, growing, expanding part of the world. There is great vitality here, tremendous thrust, outward thrust of probing energy and this

is the time when there is the need of the closest cooperation and consultation. I trust that efforts have been one of a friendly partner, as I have said in public utterance and not of a spokesman trying to tell people what to do. Our attitude about ;the Asian countries , free Asian countries, is one of first, searching for knowledge and information so we are better able to direct our energies but above all working with them as they seek to find ~~answers~~ answers to their own problems. I think there is no better place for us to get a good start at this than in Korea. We already have a good start. There ~~is~~ has been vast investment ~~in~~ at of American resources, both ;men and materials here. and we are now/~~in~~ a stage of our relationships with Korea which require us to be very sensitive to the pride of the people here to their own fully ~~con~~ cognizant ~~of~~ of their own capacities, of their own abilities and yet recognizing that there is a need for help. This is a very difficult line to follow. And it is a tight rope, ~~is~~ so to speak, to stand. But at this stage we can't afford to be domineering and yet we must be a helpful associati. . I am personally convinced and have said so when I've been back in ;the States from my other visits here that Korea represents a great jsuccess story for mutual cooperation. If these clasped hands , the JAID symbol, mean anything or have any concrete evidence as to their true meaning, it is here in ;Korea. Becuase this economy is making progress. Now according to some standards it may not be as even as some people ~~think~~ would like. There are undoubtedly a host of problems besitting this country ~~but~~ but compared to what they were a year ago, two years ago, five years ago, ~~there~~ there is every reason to believe <sup>that</sup> there is substantial progress that has been made and ;much more in the offing. In other words the the clouds are lifting. This is our conviction and I try to convey that <sup>that</sup> thought and encouragement to the government leaders. Now ~~I~~ I didn't come here asking for anything so <sup>I</sup> I think you ought to know that. I've heard and read that there were requests bein<sup>g</sup> made of me and that I was making requests of others. jThat is not the case.

I haven't had anybody be asking or demanding of me as a representative of the Government of the United States and I have made no requests or any demands upon any government or any official government here.

In our discussions on Vietnam we have reviewed the military situation and the political-economic situation, with each of the leaders. Obviously, the leader most interested was the Korean President because they have troops there. Other leaders were likewise interested because it is a , for the war in Vietnam is in this area and it vitally affects the developments in this area. I talked with General Chiu, the Secretary-General of the Directorate in Vietnam a great deal about the developments, the recent developments, in Vietnam and also conveyed to General Chiu our attitude on what was happening there. General Chiu uhh in analyzing the situation as he saw it in Vietnam came ~~α~~ out/along these lines. I think I fairly well paraphrased what he said and be quite accurate about it. And, by ;the way, his analysis is about the same as we have in our, from our own observation and our own study in Vietnam that presently on the military front that the military situation has changed considerably. First of all, the VC is having trouble in recruitment for its main units. VC activity is now more and more in the guerrilla warfare and a highly intensified campaign. Because of the shortage of manpower for the main VC units, that is ~~the main~~ a battalion and company size or larger, the North Vietnamese regulars have been brought in in larger numbers , substantially larger numbers. In a straight outright fight on conventional warfare with ;the main units, the allied forces have administered rather serious defeats to the enemy. But during this process of administering rather substantial defeat and ~~rather~~ serious defeat to the enemy and gaining military victories ~~x~~ in the main, in the large unit struggle, the VC and the ~~the~~ North Vietnamese ;have also learned a great deal about how to fight our troops and the allied troops. I think that we can say <sup>that</sup> (for the foreseeable period there will be ~~an~~

intensification of guerrilla warfare and of the type of thing that you see , the ambush activity, the probing hit-and-run tactics by the enemy. The North Vietnamese and the VC Eye Corps are making a great effort in the ~~Eye Corps~~ area for two reasons, at least two reasons. First, it diverts and ties down allied troops, taking them away from pacification and also from being able to do as well in the southern stretches, the southern regions of Vietnam. in the past. Secondly, the Eye Corps area has had political instability/~~and~~ you may recall the Buddhist uprising in the past and the communists are of the opinion that this is a good place in which to spread their forces and particularly their political cadres.

It was, our discussions centered around what we considered to be/~~the~~ priorities in Vietnam which are nothing new to you/ namely, pacification , and a great deal more has to be done at of ~~about~~ that in terms/not only of pacification from the administrative side, namely to have that people/~~who~~ are competent to carry out programs in a village but political orientation of the villages and the cadres that go into the villages. jAnd the second/ point was the constitutional processes, the political processes. On this much of our discussion centered. I explained to General Chiu that we placed a ;high priority upon ;the elections, forthcoming in September as I found in my discussions here elections/, and that that priority was shared by other allies/and by others who were not related to this combat or conflict directly. In other words, other free nations in this area are concerned about the political developments in South Vietnam.

Thus far, its true that I think its fair to say that/~~the~~ political developments have been very encouraging . I'm looking at a group of people that doubted that there would be a constituent assembly. Unless I misread what you wrote. And I don't say that critically of you because you had many reasons to doubt it. Its just a fair statement to say that many of us have doubts ~~that~~ as to whether there could be an election that would elect a constituent assembly. Number 2, whether the constituent assembly would amount to anything and do

~~ix~~ anything or whether it, Number 3 whether it would ultimately break apart and maybe be sent home by the military ~~directive~~ directorate and then finally whether or not ~~ix~~ after it finished its work, if it did finish its work that the directorate would accept it. Now those doubts quite candidly were overcome. I think much ~~of the~~ to the surprise of many of us and the constituent assembly became a live organic political body that did its work and did it quite well. jThe district and hamlet elections were held and it is this point that there is considerable evidence that we have and that I had confirmed in my discussions with General Chiu, that North Vietnam and the Vietcong became evermore concerned and worried and therefore the present tactic of the enemy is to destroy the political cadres and the political processes, that is the pacification cadres and the political processes if humanly possible if it is within their means to do it. The effort of the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese military is directed towards the what's going on in the villages in terms of pacification. The pacification. . . . the rural. . . . the so-called rural revolutionary development teams and hopefully to spread so much terror throughout the countryside as to negate or weaken its ~~one~~ the election process. Now that ~~ix~~ is the view that was expressed and one that I think we generally hold from our own observations. I emphasized to General Chiu that we thought it was important that that this be a free election and that it be as honest and as clean an election as it is possible to have in a country that is in war and of course it ~~ix~~ has had as little political experience/ election processes as Vietnam. I think it's fair to say that we can't have the standards which you apply in that area cannot be the same as you might apply in Waterloo, Iowa. It's a different world and a different experience. But what I emphasized the importance was the election be open, competitive, that there ought to be hopefully unity in the ranks of the military; that we were not so concerned as to who won as far as the United States is concerned as to how the victory was won. And I want to make that clear that

we did not... we're not picking candidates.... we didn't emphasize.... I didn't emphasize who we thought should win but rather how the process was conducted, the election process. In other words, make sure that the opposition in an election, that the respective candidates had a chance to present their case ; police methods were not used to deny that that insofar as it ;is possible in a country that is under such ;duress as Vietnam is that there be an opportunity for the opposition to get around and not to have its views distorted and not to have its views denied publication and expression. I thought it was my duty/, of our and I did so to inform Gen. Chiu concern about the quality of the democratic process/in a friendly, understanding manner. I think it was helpful. I think that he expressed his ....to me his views that this was a high priority insofar as he was concerned. jWe talked about many candidates and many people in public life, military and civilian. I don't quite know what's going to come out of this and I make no predictions. I do know that it is very very important and he felt that it was important that the election process be as good as possible. This is one way to weaken the Vietcong and one way to get a government in which there is, whoever is elected, broad civilian participation and that was another ~~point~~ point that I emphasized.

By the way, present with General Chiu was I believe his name was Mr. Hahn, the Minister of Economy, who is extremely able man, very forthright, candid, talked to us about the economic problems in Vietnam, transportation, communications, port facilities the whole subject of the movement of food and supplies into remote areas and the problems they were having in some of these matters and also what they did do to overcome it. I asked him about, frankly, pilfering in the warehouses and on the ports. At the ports. You know better than I do because you are here that much of the conjection in the Saigon port for example is overcome. That's a thing pretty much of the past. I think he told us that there were <sup>the number of</sup> barges in the ports now since they do unloading out away from the docks, the ;number of barges is

at a minimum. Some months ago there were at least a thousand; today there are around 90 unloaded. That is, that is the normal flow. The main problem of course that we have sensed back home that you have written about and rightly so because we ought to know is the amount of theft, pilfering that goes on. He informed me that stringent measures had been taken. Of course, we have insisted on this insofar as American goods are concerned and within the last ten days new orders had been strict orders of the most stringent and severe type/issued even to , I think its fair to say to shoot to kill. To make sure that this stops and there has been some improvement and there undoubtedly will be more. I can only say what I have been told on that; I have no personal knowledge beyond it.

The other aspects of that.....I know you want to ask some questions. I'll just run down the line here a little bit. In my visit with the Vice President of Nationalist China we talked about some matters/that we talked about in Washington. By the way, two men that have come recently to the United States that have made a tremendous impression are Prime Minister Chung who came from Korea and had visits with top leaders in our government and I think his visit was very fruitful for Korea. And secondly, Vice President Yen of Nationalist China. He made a hit in the United States. There's no doubt about it. He spoke to the ~~Councils of the Council~~ Councillors of the Council of Foreign Affairs in New York and was cross-examined ~~me~~ from a very critical audience and did a magnificent job ;and he carried his case/to the American people forthrightly and effectively. We're working closely with the Republic of China on technical assistance, as you know, ~~Project Vanguard~~ Project Vanguard is one of the projects in which we are cooperating with/in the sending out of agriculture teams and other technicians in other parts of the world. Its there initiative. Our cooperation primarily comes from some funding out of the moneys that come from PL-480. Other than that they do the job. They have done one of the best jobs in technical assistance and agriculture of any

country. I think its tops. Possibly this and Israel the two countries that have done as good or better than anybody else. They actually send out farmers; not just people with Ph. Ds. They send out people to show them how to do the job, ~~not~~ not just to talk about it but ~~right~~ right on out and do the job. Its been very good and they will expand this effort and we have been working in close cooperation. ~~with~~ They also send a Ph. D, I might add. There is nobody and opposed to that . They have a balanced team. The other thing that they are working on/which we talked about ~~is~~ cooperation. It isn't any sensational piece of information but it is their vegetable research institute, which is of course very important in this part of the world for crop diversification and we are now in a cooperative relationship trying to work out details on that.

We had discussions about what is going on in Mainland China, as best to gain that whatever information I could ~~to~~ from people/~~who~~ are close to this subject . What's going on in Hong Kong , and I might add that the information that was in the morning paper as I read of the Estate in ;the Communist China losing out in ;the power struggle. If this is confirmed I hesitate to say because I don't know. But I gather that it is a fact that this matter the day before I read about it ;here, the Vice President of China was telling me that he was sure that this was one of the big power struggles that was taking place and ;that he had a pretty good idea how it was coming out because of lthe charges and counter charges that had been flying around Hong Kong as to who was really behind the so-called "riot" but who was behind the "riots" and who was behind the leaders of the rioters. I asked whether or not it was his view that Hong Kong would . . . . .that communist China would try to take over. He doubted that. The Vice President doubted that. He said he of course didn't have any way to know other than to surmise but he saw that he doubted that that would be the case however

there has been some influx of capital into Taiwan because of the uncertainty ~~of the~~ in that area of Hong Kong. There seems to be a tremendous interest, by the way, greatly expanded interest of capital investment in Taiwan and I have a feeling that Koreans feel that they may likewise benefit from some of this uncertainty that exists in that part of the world.

Now, let's see if there is anything else. I think that that is about it. I just gave this as sort of fillers to whet your appetite and if you want to ask a few questions. Oh yes, I did want to mention to you that I did have a very fine conversation with the Prime Minister of Japan. ;He , our visit, I filled in to the best of my ability the Prime Minister on ;the Kosygin visit. The ;men ~~here~~ that were here were very interested in that visit and I did come well prepared for it ~~for that discuss~~ for that discussion knowing that they would be We discussed ;the Middle East. We discussed regional cooperation. We looked at Japan and I expressed this quite candidly for a great deal of ~~action~~ <sup>activity</sup> and initiative in the whole subject matter of economic assistance and technical ;assistance , political and economic initiative in Free Asia and I did say to all of the leaders that I thought this was the most propitious time for American cooperation because the President of the United States , and I think I mentioned this earlier but I want to repeat it: President Johnson does have a great and sincere and deep interest in Free Asia. He feels and I ;think rightly so that what happens in this part of the world ~~and~~ in coming years is going to ~~have~~ condition everything that happens <sup>every</sup> ~~in~~ the other part of the world. And lest I be misunderstood, this does not mean that ~~x~~ we are less interested ;in Europe that I recently visited because we are vitally interested. <sup>there</sup> But Europe is made ~~a~~ up of men and women in management and finance <sup>and politics</sup> and education and all aspects of life that are seasoned, experienced old hands at it and relatively stable governments. Europe is very independent today as some of you men ~~may~~ know I reported on ;my trip when I came back . It has a new sense of purpose and vitality in terms of the unification

of Europe. I think Europe is beginning to understand the great importance of regional cooperation and unification and will be a strong competitor, may I say, for this part of the world. But it is in this area, in the ASPAC area, of the nine or ten countries that were associated in ASPAC where I think you're going to see the greatest spectacular advance in the next decade. And its because of our feelings about this that we're trying to become better acquainted here. That is, those of us ~~who~~ that are the political officers; not the specialists. I am ;not a specialist/ I'm a political man and I want to be knowledgeable about the men/~~who~~ are doing things here, the people that are in charge; those that are coming up ~~that~~ will be in charge . Some knowledge of the labor movement,/the business community of the finance community , of the political community and how these men operate, what the forces are that/work here. Every day, every visit, every day I have here is an orientation course, and I must say it is/like going back to a seminar after you've, in order to be updated. Most people need to do that. Alright, yes Sir.

Q. Robert Trumbull, NYT: Can you tell us/~~nothing~~ anything about what went on in this meeting this morning? yourself, Mr. Yen

A. I don't feel that I'm at liberty to talk much about the details of it. I only would say this that I thought it was a very constructive and helpful meeting. It was not a tea party even though it was aa ~~kind~~ friendly gathering. Those present were the Prime Minister of Japan, the Vice President of the Republic of China, the Prime Minister of Korea, the President of Korea and myself. We all participated in a broad range of discussion around the ~~discussion~~ ~~of~~ matters here that I have talked about with a great deal of emphasis ~~on~~ upon the/subject of economic development in this part of the world and how to get at it, and;not just economic development in these countries but ~~in~~ Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Mekong area, what happens after Vietnam, You know it will be over some day and you have to be thinking ahead

I might add, gentlemen, that I have emphasized while I have been here that my country, the United States has taken on tremendous responsibilities in terms of security for this part of the world; that is we are in security alliances. This administration hasn't signed any new treaties for that. The only ~~new~~ treaties that we've signed are treaties of peace, so to speak, test ban treaties, and space treaties to prevent nuclear weapons in space and orbiting ~~x~~ ~~weapons~~ and weapons of mass destruction. We haven't made any new alliances but we do have a mutual assistance security pact ~~which~~ with Japan; we do have a mutual security pact with Korea. We do have a mutual security pact with the Republic of China. We do have our relationships ~~and~~ under SEATO and our obligations. So the United States has taken on a tremendous ~~this~~ responsibility and heavy burden as I have said ~~in security~~ in terms of security. Therefore we expect others to take on their share of the ~~con~~ economic and social burden. There is a limit to what any one country can do. And I have made, I mean we want to be a cooperating partner but in this part of the world those who are industrially productive and active have an extra responsibility and of course we are pleased to see what Japan is doing and Indonesia; the interest Japan is taking in other parts of the Far East. Her renewed relationships with Korea and by the way I am of the opinion that this visit of Prime Minister Sato here was very very helpful. I am not privy to the personal conversation between the two leaders, President Park and Prime Minister Sato but I would imagine this would have given an opportunity for them to discuss many things of mutual concern.

Q. Leon Daniel, UPI: Do you feel that Prime Minister' Sato's attendance at this meeting today might indicate Japan is willing or showing some willingness to assume more of an economic and social role in Vietnam?

their

A. I couldn't say what it means in terms of relationships with Korea. As I said, my

discussions with the Prime Minister were on a broad range of subjects, not the most important of which was Vietnam. We discussed other matters to even a larger degree. It was the PM I think was pleased that we had a chance to talk about subjects which relate to Japan's role as a world power. Japan is a world power. There is no doubt about that, it is a major power and we ought to be in close consultative process with her all the time. Therefore, I saw fit to share as every intimate detail that I had about the Kosygin visit with President Johnson. I thought it was important that that visit be clearly understood; what happened and what didn't happen. Also, I had my opportunity to talk with the PM about the role of Japan hopefully as we would encourage it in terms of economic assistance in this part of the world and to extend a note of thanks by the way to Japan to PM Sato for his help on, for his cooperation on the Kennedy Round and the matter of food aid. We discussed this and we reviewed the ME situation without ~~coming~~ coming to any conclusions. I ~~mean~~ mean I merely explained what how we saw the resolutions in the UN and the activities that were taking place there/<sup>as</sup> from our vantage point from where we are and listen to what he had to say.

Q. Martin Agronsky, CBS: Did you raise with any of these people the question of how to end this war in Vietnam and do you think it will end some day?

A. Well, when we discuss an area like Vietnam, Martin, we also not only discuss current events but/how; you can change the meaning of current events. We obviously talked/what possibilities there might be for ending the war; yes, for bringing it to a conclusion and a conclusion that preserved a right of free choice and self-determination for South Vietnam.

Q. Agronsky: We..., since we are absolutely on dead center on the matter at home, did they have any creative or anything new to propose on what could be done?

No Sir.

A. I don't think so/ I think that most of us have seen those that I discussed this with in some detail recognize that it is not, that there aren't any easy solutions to it, that ~~there~~ most of them were seeking information as to whether we had any way to bring it to an end. I think you know that in the President's discussions with Mr. Kosygin that nothing came out of that ~~that~~ ~~discussion~~ discussion or those discussions that could be definitive or give us any new line or new hopes in reference to Vietnam at this stage, anyway.

Q. Agronsky: Did Sato have any evaluations on what is happening in China?

A. I think it is best for me to just say that we tried to pool what limited information that we have ~~had~~ on China and I would be I was <sup>as</sup> candid with them as I'm going to be with you right now that the US searches for that information from every source that we can find it or get it and we look to our friends and allies to ~~get it~~ help provide us with information. Frankly, none of them have very much. These police states are rather difficult to penetrate; not only China but North Korea and North Vietnam. The

Q. Agronsky: Mr. Vice President, in light of the Chinese Communist nuclear developments, H-bombs, the whole world must change for for all the people, the whole future.

A. All the more reason our relations be on the most friendly, most open frank basis with more than sporadic consultation, continuity of consultation on what we know, what we seek to do what others are doing; without any straight jacket. I mean no one being told what to do but to share information.

It is

Q. Agronsky:/ Against that background Mr. Vice President that I raise this question on Sato's evaluation.

A. I prefer to let Mr. Sato answer that question himself. He has enough problems in Japan without me complicating them.

Q. Lou Chioffe, ABC: ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Vice President, do you think Mr. Sato has expressed any satisfaction that he is satisfied himself that the US is doing everything in its power to end this war in Vietnam?

A. Well, Mr. Sato is a very discreet man and he didn't chastise me or the US for anything we are doing. He expressed considerable interest in what we are doing and ; I would say my discussions with him were very helpful in terms of the possibility of a forthcoming visit that he may have with the President some time later on this year. I had a feeling that my ;visit here with PM Sato had as its prime purpose or good if there was any good to come of it and I hope that there is a kind of opening of the issues that we have on our respective agendas ~~and~~ that we would like to talk about, that we need to talk more about, that we need to resolve and that we need to work towards and many times my visits are related towards visits of others and I think it is fair to say that my trip to Europe was designed not only to get me more acquainted with Europe but hopefully to review the problems there and bring them back and ~~put~~ could put them on the appropriate desks in Washington so that others when they followed through/~~would~~ be somewhat better informed and at the same time ~~be~~ that those that I talked to would know what we were concerned about so there is a kind of preparatory step .

difference between

Q. John Roderick, AP: Were you called on to explain/the sudden end of the :Middle East War and the continuing war in Vietnam, if it is

of

A. No. ~~I could have~~ If I had/~~been~~ I could/~~of said~~ have said ~~about that~~ that that man with the patch had a lot to do with it but I was not. No, we didn't go into that in any great detail.

really

The past is prologue on that Middle East. What is/concerning all of the ;men that we visit with about this is how what happens now. I mean there are a series of resolutions in the UN, there is the Soviet resolution, there is the non-aligned resolution, there is the Lating American resolution, there is a rash of new ones, I understand today that I wasn't fully knowledgeable about but what are the factors that can make for a durable peace in that area and what, if anything, can be done by those we were talking to here to make a contribution to it? I think it is better for me/<sup>just</sup>to tell you in all candor that it was an informative discussion. We, I didn't come here with any ~~foreign~~ we are so much involved in, after all it was Kosygin and President Johnson that met. The US has an involvement in the middle East if for no other reason because we are accused but we ;have and interest in ;that area and therefore we are in a vantage point for observation and for opinions about it and I was sharing those observations and opinions and what our purpose was. Quite candidly, everyone of the men with whom I talked of course, the Prime Minister of Japan was a very important member of that.

Q. Lou Chioffe, ABC: Mr. Vice President, in your discussions with General Chieu was there any discussion of the possible reverse effects of the elections in the sense that the idea of having free elections was to give the people of Vietnam change, and out of these constitutional elections and the presidential elections the winners will lprobably be Chieu and Ky who will probably be ancient rulers, if you will. The previous rulers of Vietnam and the people will think that nothing is really changed. Here again another of the program.

A. Well, I didn't predict who the winners would be. That's where we start. I think that prediction is a little early. <sup>I Am not saying</sup> ~~I won't say~~ who will or who won't. What is most important would

would seem to me for me to say was that the American people and the government of those people , the US government, is concerned about the legitimacy of the election process.

We happen to believe that this political process is very very important. We are deeply concerned about the emphasis that needs to be placed upon pacification, not only by armies but by civilians. We are interested ~~and~~ in and concerned about a composition of a government.

Whoever wins that government, what will be the relationships to the civilian authorities or ~~the~~ civilian participation? And that was the emphasis and I hope that emphasis would be conveyed back to the proper people in Saigon.

Q. Chioffe: Mr. Vice President, doesn't the legitimacy of the elections immediately cast a doubt by the simple fact that it is the Army that assures a free election and that the two leaders of the Army are running for the two top positions?

A. Well, I can't draw any such conclusion right off the bat because there are changes for example in ;the police power of the Chief of Police recently in Saigon. I don't know whether it is Chieu and Ky are going to resign and take off uniforms as others have and run as civilians or whether they are going to run as military. We don't know lyet. We don't know, for example, if there was any understanding as to the division of power between the two men, the present chief of state and the PM. Ky said that he was going to have control of the army. Well, I'll tell you, I've been Vice President and one thing I find you don't control much. There may be much difference in this part of the world. I just can't speak with any knowledge about what those arrangements will be but this ;is very important and I tried to find out from General Chieu if he had any information on it and quite candidly he didn't have any information on ~~ix~~ this particular matter . I must say that I don't believe Gen. Chieu was particularly surprised by what happened that many of us back in the States have been led to believe that

the strong man in Vietnam was Ky. We constantly forget that there is what you kind of call collective leadership and spokesman and when I came back in February from Vietnam a year and a half ago, I see ~~in~~ one or two friends here, and I want you to check that record, I said that the man that seemed to be, that had the real strength in Vietnam was Chieu, Thieu. He was the chief of state; he was ~~the~~ quiet but he had the numbers in the directorate amongst the generals. ~~Thieu~~ <sup>Ky</sup> was the spokesman, ~~Thieu~~ <sup>Ky</sup> was the activist, but Chieu ~~was~~ ~~the~~ for example when we wanted to talk about certain matters that needed to be done that I had been sent there to talk about relating to port, relating to inflation and relating to other things I was told almost quietly and I may say almost surreptitiously that maybe you'd better talk to the chief of state about this. When I look back now I shouldn't have been at all surprised that this happened, that this combination. . . . now from one point of view that this is fortuitous at least namely, that the military/as ~~of~~ ~~this~~ ~~morning~~ Sunday does not divide. It could be catastrophic if the ~~military~~ got into divisional/or political conflict. But what this will ultimately mean down the line, how Chieu and Ky are going to arrange, keep their arrangements, I cannot predict. But I have a feeling that we have a pretty good Ambassador there that is keeping an eye on it and I ~~know~~ noticed in the morning cables that Bunker had, that Ambassador Bunker had already been making calls. And I did indicate to Gen. Chieu that we did not send Ambassador Bunker there just to change names, that he was considered by the President to be one of the most able ~~and~~ Ambassadors that we had, particularly in relationship to this ~~is~~ ~~civilian~~ and military cooperation/ that he had his baptismal fire ~~on~~ this in the Dominican Republic and he'd had some other experiences that were very good and that he ~~was~~ had the complete confidence of the President of the United States. And that Ambassador Bunker would be interested in encouraging and hopefully developing a kind of relationships there that would lead to civilian and military cooperation. Now you can't direct people. We don't have that authority and I couldn't foresee what the future would have. I was trying to draw out of the



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