

5-8-68

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(THAI)  
WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT JOHNSON PROMISED TODAY THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY ROLE IN VIETNAM EVENTUALLY WOULD DIMINISH AND DISAPPEAR BUT THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN AND CONCERNED WITH THE PURSUIT OF HUMAN FREEDOM IN ASIA.

THE PRESIDENT STRESSING HIS PERSONAL WELCOME FOR THAI AND PRIME MINISTER THANON KITTAKACHORN FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT.

AFTER THE ARRIVAL CEREMONIES ON THE SOUTH GROUNDS OF THE WHITE HOUSE, THE TWO LEADERS WENT DIRECTLY INTO A BUSINESS SESSION AT WHICH JOHNSON WAS EXPECTED TO PREVIEW FOR HIS ALLEY IN THE VIETNAM WAR THE LINE U.S. NEGOTIATORS WILL TAKE IN THEIR FORTHCOMING PARIS TALKS WITH HANOI REPRESENTATIVES.

KITTAKACHORN, ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE PARIS TALKS FROM THE ALLIED POINT OF VIEW.

HE SAID IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY THAT EVEN IF THE WAR IN VIETNAM WAS BROUGHT TO A CLOSE HE THOUGHT COMMUNIST CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ARMED "LIBERATION" MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE PARIS TALKS JOHNSON SAID "THERE IS A FRESH BREEZE OF HOPE CIRCULATING AROUND THE WORLD."

SPEAKING OF THIS COUNTRY'S BASIC AIM IN VIETNAM, THE U.S. CHIEF EXECUTIVE SAID THE AMERICAN PRESENCE WAS "TO HELP A NATION IN ITS STRUGGLE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN DESTINY."

"AS THAT SIMPLE, BUT VERY DIFFICULT OBJECTIVE BECOMES SECURE, THE AMERICAN MILITARY ROLE IN VIETNAM WILL DIMINISH AND DISAPPEAR."

THE PRESIDENT SAID AT THE SAME TIME, "WE BELIEVE THAT FREEDOM AND PEACE IN AMERICA CAN ONLY BE SECURED IF AMERICA REMAINS INVOLVED IN AND CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF HUMAN FREEDOM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

KITTAKACHORN IN HIS REPLY TOLD THE PRESIDENT THE THAI PEOPLE WERE WITH HIM IN HIS "INCESSANT QUEST FOR A LASTING AND MEANINGFUL PEACE--A GENUINE PEACE WHICH IS NOT A FACADE COVERING A SURRENDER, BUT A PEACE WHICH GUARANTEES FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT FOR SMALL NATIONS TO EXIST WITH DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE."

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UPI-69

(NOMINATIONS)

WASHINGTON--PRESIDENT JOHNSON TODAY ANNOUNCED HIS SELECTION OF A NEW ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR IN THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO SUCCEED HERBERT J. WATERS WHO RESIGNED LAST YEAR.

DR. HERMAN BROOKS JAMES, DEAN OF AGRICULTURE AT NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE, WILL BE NOMINATED TO SUCCEED WATERS AS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE WAR ON HUNGER IN THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID).

IN THIS POST JAMES WILL SUPERVISE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, POPULATION AND FOOD FOR FREEDOM PROGRAMS IN AID.

JOHNSON ALSO ANNOUNCED THE FORTHCOMING NOMINATION OF JOHN E. ROBSON AS UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, REPLACING EVERETT HUTCHINSON WHO RESIGNED IN APRIL.

ROBSON WAS THE FIRST GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE SUCCEEDED IN THIS POST BY STANFORD G. ROSS, NATIVE OF ST. LOUIS, FORMER NEW YORK LAWYER AND NOW A WHITE HOUSE