

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State
Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Representative to the United Nations
Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Jack Pritchard, Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (Notetaker)
Sean Son Lam (Interpreter)

Tran Duc Luong, President of Vietnam
Nguyen Dy Nien, Foreign Minister
Le Bang, Ambassador
Nguyen Thanh Chau, Ambassador to the United Nations

DATE, TIME September 6, 2000, 10:20 - 10:35 a.m.
AND PLACE: Indonesia Lounge, UN General Assembly

President Luong: Thank you for the opportunity to meet. (U)

The President: I am honored to see you. I had a good visit with your prime minister at APEC last year in Auckland. (U)

President Luong: I am well aware that your prestige and foresight made many important decisions possible, from the lifting of obstacles that led to diplomatic relations and ending with the Bilateral Trade Agreement. I am thankful you reserved time to appear during the signing ceremony of the Bilateral Trade Agreement. Now it is time for our two parliaments to approve and execute the agreement. I understand the current circumstance of your election will not allow passage this year.

(2)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke
Reason: 1.5 (d)
Declassify On: 09/06/10

I understand that you will travel to southeast Asia for APEC. I would like to officially extend an invitation for you to visit Vietnam. If it is possible, your visit will be of great importance to the general situation in the region. Vietnam is committed to Doi Moi (New Way). We are committed to an open foreign policy and will work with everyone. We have more to do, but what we have achieved so far is important. (Ø)

The President: First, let me thank you for your remarks. We have all worked hard for a new, long-term relationship. I am pleased about the Bilateral Trade Agreement. Our election may prevent a vote this year, but do not worry. We have broad, bipartisan support for the agreement, and it will pass easily. I would like to come to Vietnam. I will be in the region for APEC. It would help if we did not make any public announcement now while I work on my schedule. Our officials can work together on the official announcement. I am honored to be invited. (Ø)

President Luong: We will have an opportunity to discuss other things when you visit. I want to assure you that the Vietnamese leadership is eager to welcome your visit. (U)

The President: Thank You. (U)

-- End of Conversation --