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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 21, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Lunch with Mr. Cvijeto Job, Counselor and Press Attache  
of Yugoslav Embassy

Apparently there were two subjects which interested Job: PL 480 assistance for Yugoslavia--and Vietnam. Regarding PL 480, Job said he understood the issue was decided and the decision made--against any assistance to Yugoslavia. I said this was not my understanding, as a final decision how to handle the question had not yet been made. I said the President had made clear in signing the Food for Freedom Bill that he would like the Congress to reconsider the Findley Amendment, and one of the considerations that must be weighed now is the effect of our actions before December 31 on subsequent Congressional attitudes. In amplifying his assertion that prospects were virtually hopeless for PL 480, Job described at length the history of assistance to Yugoslavia in past years.

Regarding Vietnam, Job alleged there was "outrage" abroad over U.S. bombing of Hanoi, including the Chinese and Romanian embassies. I said I had no knowledge that the damage actually was caused by American bombs. It could well have been caused by fall-out from anti-aircraft fire or SAM missiles. Job went on to assert that an unconditional cessation of bombing was the only practical avenue to peace. When I expressed doubt that we would be prepared, once again, to make such an open-ended and unilateral move--particularly after our experience last January--Job passed on to describe what he thought was the minimum U.S. position that could produce negotiations. We would have to recognize the NLF (he suggested DeGaulle's formula used when negotiating with the Algerians). We would also have to have a broad understanding that Ho Chi Minh may well be the Tito of Asia. I asked Job how he would translate this latter point into a practical position for negotiations. He said it would enable us to accept a role for Ho Chi Minh that was broader than his defeat in the South. He said this would enable us to stop looking at the conflict as "containment" of Red Chinese aggression. I expressed skepticism that this was a fruitful lead toward negotiations.

Nathaniel Davis

cc: ✓ Mr. Rostow/Mr. Smith  
Mr. Bator  
Mr. Ash  
Mr. Jorden  
Mr. Lisle

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