September 27, 1967

VIA CHANNELS

To Ambassador Bunker, Saigon, EYES ONLY, from Walt Rostow

The President requests you, Westy, Bob Komer to search for occasions to present sound evidence of progress in Viet Nam.

Press and TV here are dominated by DMZ, Thieu-Ky split, alleged election irregularities, newspaper closings, debates on bombing, etc. We must somehow get hard evidence out of Saigon on steady if slow progress in population control, pacification, VC manpower problems, economic progress in the countryside, ARVN improvement, etc. All are happening. Little comes through despite what we know to be most serious efforts out your way.

President's judgment is that this is at present stage a critically important dimension of fighting the war.