DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

JT

TO:

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON.

0.19985

Sent: 5th August, 1964
1912

CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Reference our telegram No. AP.83.
American Action in North Vietnam.
For Renouf.

You should be aware that American Ambassador Battle
called on Prime Minister this afternoon 5th August, to convey
following personal message from President Johnson:

Begins:

I am asking my Ambassador to convey to you a statement
I am making in Washington tonight with regard to deliberate
attacks which have been made by Communist North Vietnamese torpedo
boats on American vessels operating on the high seas.

As I am sure that you will agree, these attacks could
not go unanswered. The response we are making is, however, limited
and fitting. I hope that it will make clear to North Vietnamese
regime the dangerous character of the course they are following
in South East Asia.

I am bringing this to your personal attention because
I know that your country, as a member of the Southeast Asia
Treaty Organization, has special concerns and responsibilities
with regard to the peace and security of the area. We will
wish to keep in particularly close touch in the days ahead.

Ends.

2. The Prime Minister replied verbally to the effect that
he sympathised with the President and thought that he was
pursuing the right course of action.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
MIN. & DEPT DEFENCE
P.M.'S

5th August, 1964.
Military aid for South Vietnam