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TO WHITE HOUSE (ATTN: MR. D. MCHANIS FOR SERIES CHECK)

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VIETNAMESE (SOUTH) CIPHER/ENGLISH

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G/00/ -73 (USVNFN)

KUS, AVS, AVN/FRP/B.

TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON

REPORT ON TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS

XXCC

FR WASHINGTON EMBASSY: BUI DIEM AND TRAN VAN DO 9 JAN 73 1130

TO SAIGON: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT: PRESS SECRETARY

HOANG DUC NHA URGENT 06/C/BD/26/TLX/VP

PLEASE KINDLY REPORT THE FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENT ((THIEU)), HERE ((ARE)) THE MAIN POINTS OF SUBSTANCE OF THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD THESE DAYS WITH DR. ((HENRY A.)) KISSINGER, ((14G/M)) AND WITH SECRETARY ((OF STATE WILLIAM P.)) ROGERS, AND UNDER-SECRETARY ((OF STATE)) ALEXIS JOHNSON, AMBASSADOR ((TRAN KIM)) ((B VAL PHUONG)) ((11G/M)) ((HAS)) BEEN ALONG WITH US DURING ALL OF THESE CONVERSATIONS.

1. DR. KISSINGER ((SAID THAT HE)) UNDERSTANDS VERY WELL OUR CONCERN AND THAT HE WILL TRY TO DO HIS BEST IN OUR FAVOR IN THE PRESENT ((19G/M)) TALKS WITH HANOI. HE INSISTED ON THE FACT THAT HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT HANOI'S INTENTIONS IN THE C VAL FUTURE), BUT AN AGREEMENT IS A NECESSITY FOR THE ((C VAL COHESION)) ((11G/M)) UNITED STATES SUPPORT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VIETNAM ISSUE IN TERMS OF ITS INFLUENCE ON THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE U.S. ((UNITED STATES)) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN FACT, IT APPEARS ((15G/M)) THAT HE CONSIDERED THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. POLICY AT STAKE NOW, DEPENDING ON THE SUCCESSFUL ((C VAL CONCLUSION)) OF AN AGREEMENT ENDING THE WAR. HE SAID THAT HE HEARD RUMORS COMING FROM SAIGON TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS IN FAVOR OF A DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE VIETNA ISSUE, APPARENTLY ((C VAL REFERRING)) TO ONE PARAGRAPH OF PRESIDENT ((THIEU'S)) SPEECH ON 12 DECEMBER AND

***** * * * * * WHSR COMMENT * * * * *

SENT TO HAK, KENNEDY, SCOWCROFT, HOWE

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THAT DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH ((136/M)) PEOPLE, HE HAD A CONTEMPTUOUS ATTITUDE REGARDING THE FUTURE OF VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT THESE RUMORS ARE COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND ARE BUT NONSENSE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY IN FAVOR OF VIETNAM DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND THAT HE DID NOT TALK TO FRENCH PEOPLE ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF U.S. POLICY. AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, WHICH LASTED FOR ALMOST 1 HOUR, DR. KISSINGER CAME BACK TO THE POINT THAT HOWEVER IMPERFECT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE, IT IS A NECESSITY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF U.S. SUPPORT. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WILL UNDERSTAND, ONE, THE VITAL NECESSITY FOR VIETNAMESE AND AMERICANS TO STAY CLOSE TOGETHER; AND TWO, THE VITAL C- VAL NECESSITY FOR) SEEING WHERE ARE THE REAL FRIENDS OF VIETNAM, IMPLYING THAT PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIMSELF ARE THESE REAL FRIENDS, DEFENDING CONSISTENTLY THE CAUSE OF VIETNAM AGAINST ALL THESE LIBERALS WHO WANTED TO GIVE UP A LONG TIME AGO. DR. KISSINGER PROMISED TO SEE US AGAIN IN PARIS BY THE TIME WE REACHED PARIS LATER THIS WEEK.

2. SECRETARY ROGERS AND UNDERSECRETARY ALEXIS JOHNSON ASKED US TO CONVEY BACK THE MESSAGE THAT "IF WE SUCCEEDED TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH HANOI AND YOU DECIDE NOT TO GO ALONG WITH US, WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT YOU BECAUSE WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT." WE DISCUSSED ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AND AMBASSADOR PHUONG, AS WELL AS DR. DO AND MYSELF, ARGUED THAT IS IS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLES FOR US. TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT, SECRETARY ROGERS ((SAID)) THAT HE DOES NOT ARGUE ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF OUR ARGUMENT, BUT HE THINKS THAT THEY CAN DO (SIC) THAT THEY HAVE NO CHOICE LEFT AND THAT THE PROBLEM IS TO HAVE PRACTICAL CONDITIONS IN VIEW OF SUPPORTING PRINCIPLES.

OTHERWISE, IT WILL SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE TO HAVE RIGHT PRINCIPLES BUT NO PRACTICAL CONDITIONS TO SUPPORT IT.

UNDERSECRETARY JOHNSON STRESSED HIS CONSTANT SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF ((SOUTH)) VIETNAM BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT AN EVENTUAL BREAK BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ((SOUTH)) VIETNAM BECAUSE HE SAID THAT IT WILL BE THE END OF EVERYTHING.

3. WE GO ON MEETING WITH SENATORS AND NEWSMEN, TAKING A VERY CAREFUL APPROACH, DEFENDING STRONGLY OUR CAUSE, BUT IN ((SIC)) THE SAME TIME AVOIDING TO TAKE DEFINITE POSITIONS OR TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO ANY PARTICULAR POSITION.

4. WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR PHUONG ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND THINK THAT WE GOT EXACTLY THE SAME MESSAGE HERE.

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