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 Z 160017Z JAN 73 ZYH  
 FM DIRNSA

TO WHITE HOUSE (ATTN: MR D. MCMANIS)

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA GAMMA CONTROLLED ITEM~~

TRANSMITTED HERewith IS A SOUTH VIETNAMESE MESSAGE.  
 NORMAL DISTRIBUTION FOR THIS MESSAGE IS IN THE GAMMA  
 SERIES. PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY LIMITATIONS OVER AND  
 ABOVE EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ARE REQUIRED. THIS  
 MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE WHITE HOUSE ONLY.

XXMMENP01F0073015

VIETNAMESE (SOUTH) CIPHER/ENGLISH

G/DD/ -73 (USVNEA)

TRAN VAN DO, BUI DIEM REPORT U.S. DOMESTIC REACTION TO  
 RECENT PARIS NEGOTIATIONS, WAR ACTIVITY IN VIETNAM

XXCC

FR PARIS: ((DELEGATION:)) DR. TRAN VAN DO AND BUI DIEM 15 JAN 73  
 1930

TO SAIGON: GENERAL COMMISSIONER HOANG DUC NHA IMMEDIATE 16/PDVN/P/M

~~SECRET~~

PLEASE KINDLY REPORT THE FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENT ((THIEU)), IF YOU  
 FEEL IT ((IS)) STILL TO BE CONSIDERED. WE PRESUME THAT AMBASSADOR ((  
 TRAN KIM)) PHUONG DID REPORT ENOUGH ALREADY ABOUT THE MOOD IN  
 THE U.S. THESE DAYS. WE THINK, NEVERTHELESS, THAT WE SHOULD REPORT  
 BACK OUR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT, DUE TO THE VERY SIMPLE FACT THAT  
 WE HAVE ACCEPTED AN ASSIGNMENT FROM PRESIDENT ((THIEU)), AND WE  
 HAVE THE DUTY TO REPORT HONESTLY TO HIM WHAT WE HAVE FOUND. WE  
 RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS PERHAPS A LITTLE BIT TOO LATE, ESPECIALLY NOW  
 WHEN ALMOST EVERYTHING IS TOWARD TO FINAL SHAPE ((SIC)). HEREUNDER  
 IS OUR ASSESSMENT:

1. BARRING SOME RARE EXCEPTIONS, THE NEWS MEDIA IS AGAINST US IN  
 THE SENSE THAT THEY FOUND OUR ATTITUDE INTRANSIGENT TO THE POINT  
 OF BECOMING UNREALISTIC. IN PRIVATE THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH US, BUT  
 THEY POINT OUT THE FACT THAT PUBLIC OPINION ((IN THE)) U.S.  
 IS DEFINITELY FOR AN IMMEDIATE ENDING OF THE WAR, ALMOST AT ANY  
 COST, AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, TALKING ABOUT PRINCIPLES AND MORAL-  
 ITIES IS LIKE TALKING INTO DEAF EARS. ADDING TO THAT, THE CARPET  
 BOMBING ((SIC)) DID PROVIDE AN EMOTIONAL REACTION, AND THE NEWS  
 MEDIA, WITH ALL THE LIBERAL ELEMENTS INSIDE IT, REACTED RATHER

\*\*\*\*\* \*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

HAK, SCOWCROFT, KENNEDY, LORD, HOWE. SENT TO SULLIVAN

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STRONGLY.

2. THE CONGRESS, FOR ITS PART, IS NOW IN A SPECIAL MOOD. THEY DEFINITELY WANT AN IMMEDIATE END OF THE WAR: BUT MORE THAN THAT, THEY ARE ANGRY ABOUT THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON SEEMED TO IGNORE THE CONGRESS. THEY WOULD LIKE TO REASSERT THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONGRESS, AND THE FIRST OCCASION WOULD BE THE WAR IN VIETNAM. WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH INFLUENTIAL SENATORS OF EVERY SHADE: NAMELY, ((HUBERT H.)) HUMPHREY, ((JACOB)) JAVITS, ((GEORGE)) AIKEN, ((AND JOHN)) TOWER. THEIR GENERAL ADVICE TO US IS THAT WE SHOULD BE REALISTIC. ACCORDING TO THEM, THE MOOD OF THE CONGRESS NOW IS "REAL BAD," BUT THIS MOOD CAN TURN OUT TO BE VERY SYMPATHETIC (C VAL IN TERMS) OF ASSISTANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION ONCE THE WAR IS OVER, AND EVEN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IF NEED BE, IN CASE OF VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COMMUNISTS. TALKING WITH EXPERTS ON CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS, WE FOUND OUT TWO IMPORTANT DATES: THE DATE OF 28 FEBRUARY, AT WHICH ((TIME)) THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION WILL (B VAL CEASE TO BE IN) EFFECT; AND THE DATE OF JUNE 1973, IN THE SENSE THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE PROVIDED BEYOND THIS DATE. THESE EXPERTS OPINED THAT CONGRESS NEED NOT NECESSARILY VOTE A CUTOFF-OF-THE FUNDS BILL. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO ((1 WD G)) TO DISCUSS THE EXTENSION OF THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION, BECAUSE BY THEN THE MONEY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY CUT OFF AS FAR AS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS CONCERNED.

3. CONCERNING THE MOOD OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WE THINK THAT IT IS (C VAL USELESS) TO ADD MORE TO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED IN OUR PREVIOUS CABLE.

4. WE WILL SEE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ((MAURICE)) SCHUMANN TOMORROW AND WILL FLY AFTERWARDS TO LONDON TO SEE ((THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, SIR)) DOUGLAS-HOME ON WEDNESDAY. WE PLAN TO COME BACK TO PARIS AROUND FRIDAY AND TO CONTINUE OUR CONTACTS IN PARIS LATER ON.

TI ---  
XXHH  
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