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P 122045Z JAN 73

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VIETNAMESE (SOUTH) CIPHER

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Z-G/DO/09-73 (USATFN)

AVS, AVN, KUS/FORM-C, Y/B, D.

REPORT OF HUNDRED SEVENTY-THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM

XXCC

FR PARIS: DELEGATION; NGUYEN

XUAN PHONG((1)) 11 JAN 73 1700

TO SAIGON: PRESIDENT ((THIEU)) IMMEDIATE 15/POYN/MAE/004

~~SECRET~~

THE 173RD PLENARY SESSION TOOK PLACE TODAY, THURSDAY, 11 JANUARY, AT 1030 HOURS. IT LASTED 2 HOURS AND 45 MINUTES. NGUYEN THI BINH AND XUAN THUY WERE ABSENT. ((HEYWARD)) ISHAM PROVIDED AN INTERIM U.S. DELEGATION, REPLACING ABASSADOR ((WILLIAM J.)) PORTER, WHO LEFT PARIS YESTERDAY, 10 DECEMBER. I REPLACED AMBASSADOR PHAM DANG LAM.

1. THE COMMUNIST SIDE SPOKE FIRST. DINH BA THI((2)) AND NGUYEN MINH VY((3)) ACCUSED THE U.S. OF PURSUING A POLICY OF FORCE TO IMPOSE THEIR CONDITIONS. DINH BA THI INSISTED IN PARTICULAR ON THE NECESSITY OF RECOGNIZING THE REALITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF TWO ADMINISTRATIONS, TWO ARMIES, TWO ZONES OF CONTROL, AND THREE POLITICAL FORCES IN SOUTH

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

KENNEDY, HOLDRIDGE, HOWE

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VIETNAM; WHILE NGUYEN MINH VY CALLED FOR A HALT TO THE BOMBINGS IN ALL OF THE TERRITORY OF NORTH VIETNAM AND CESSATION OF THE VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM AS A PROOF OF GOODWILL ((IN THE SPIRIT OF THE)) OCTOBER ACCORD.

2. AFTER THE BREAK I TOOK THE FLOOR FOR 25 MINUTES. I REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN OUR POSITION CONCERNING A REAL, GENERAL, AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED CEASEFIRE; THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS; AND THE ADMISSION OF THE REALITY OF TWO SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT VIETNAMESE STATES ((AS)) CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR A TRUE AND LASTING PEACE. AFTER THE SPEECH I CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE COMMUNIST THESIS ON THE REALITY OF SOUTH VIETNAM, EMPHASIZING THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE LEGAL AND ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THE GRVN ((GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM)); AND ONLY ONE ARMY, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM; AND THAT THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO SIGNING THE PEACE AGREEMENT IS THE OBSTRUCTION OF HANOI IN WANTING TO MAINTAIN ITS TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN SOUTH VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS.

IN THE COURSE OF ((THIS)) SPEECH, TSHAM SIMPLY URGED THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO AVOID ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PURSUIT OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. HE REAFFIRMED THE U.S. DESIRE TO BRING ABOUT A JUST AND HONORABLE SETTLEMENT.

AFTER SOME BRIEF INTERRUPTIONS FROM ONE SIDE AND THE OTHER, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN ON THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY, ON THE PROPOSAL OF DINH BA THI.

3. GENERAL IMPRESSION: THE MEETING WAS UNINTERESTING AND PURE VERBIAGE ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS.

- ((1)) DEPUTY HEAD OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM, ACCORDING TO PRESS OF 8 SEP 72.
- ((2)) DEPUTY HEAD OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM, ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL OF AUG 71.
- ((3)) DEPUTY HEAD OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION TO THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM, ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL OF APR 71.

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