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State

Pres. eff.

1/22/69

secret

1. Ladies and Gentlemen:

2. This is a unique moment in history.

3. Today, in this new meeting in Paris, the search for peace in Vietnam enters a new stage. Today, we begin together the search

for an honorable and enduring settlement to the conflict which divides us.

4. The world will be watching these proceedings with close attention.

5. They will expect progress, not propaganda.

6. They will expect agreement, not acrimony.

7. The United States is determined to do everything it can to assure that these meetings will lead us to peace.

8. Last Monday, a new President was inaugurated committed to an honorable peace, dedicated to an equitable solution, determined to

explore all alternatives. In his inaugural address he stated: "The peace we seek to win is not victory over any other people, but the peace that

comes with 'healing in its wings'; with compassion for those who have suffered; with understanding for those who have opposed us; with the

opportunity for all the peoples of this earth to choose their own destiny."

I ask you to ponder these words.

9. I have reviewed the record of previous meetings. No purpose

is served by repeating the list of familiar charges or to recite once more the chronology which brought us here. Our responsibility is to the future,

not the past. We have settled procedural problems; the bulk of our

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Paris  
9:00  
Some  
pictures

Review  
and explain  
photos 9:00  
and 9:37  
pic 13

substantive work is still ahead. The United States will enter these talks with a profound sense of responsibility and an open mind. It will put forth carefully considered proposals and hopes that the other side will do the same.

10. Undoubtedly we have many difficult sessions ahead of us.

A good way to begin our task would be to seek ways to implement understanding reached earlier. The search for peace can begin in the DMZ. We believe that the demilitarized status of the zone between North and South Vietnam should be restored immediately. Specifically, the United States Government proposes that the DMZ should be:

- free of all regular and irregular military and subversive forces and personnel, military installations, military supplies and equipment;
- an area in which, from which, and across which all acts of force are prohibited;
- a zone temporarily separating North and South Vietnam pending their reunification through the free expression of the will of the people of the North and the people of the South;
- an area the same in size and definition as that provided in the 1954 Geneva Accords;
- subject to an effective system of international inspection and verification.

11. We therefore propose that each side publicly declare its readiness to respect the provisions of the 1954 Geneva Accords relating to the DMZ, and abide by those provisions.

*Revised from 980, paras. 13-14*

980, para 15-  
as revised

12. We stand ready to begin today to work out the details for transforming this proposal for a DMZ into a practical move toward peace. We are prepared to give serious and open-minded consideration to all proposals directed to this end by your side. Nothing could be more auspicious for our work here than an agreement today to begin urgent consideration of this matter.

980, para 9

13. Of course, our real task is not a partial but a complete peace. The United States goal can be stated simply: to preserve the right of the South Vietnamese people to determine their own future without outside interference or coercion.

980, para 12  
revised

14. For this reason, the United States Government believes that all external forces should be withdrawn from South Vietnam. We are ready to work towards the implementation of the objective of mutual withdrawal.

939, paras  
36-37

15. The United States Government seeks no permanent establishment of troops, no permanent military bases, and no permanent military alliance. We have no desire to threaten or harm the people of North Vietnam or to invade that country, or to overthrow its government. What we do seek is a South Vietnam that is free from attacks or subversion from without, a South Vietnam that has a right to determine its own future in its own way.

939, para 19

16. The United States has, on more than one occasion, expressed its conviction that the essential elements of the Geneva Accords of 1954 provide a basis for peace in Vietnam. We reaffirm this today.

939 P.M. 5/31-32  
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

17. It must be bluntly stated that the frontiers of Southeast Asia under the Geneva Accords of 1954 and 1962 have been very inadequately monitored by the International Control Commission. This unfortunate result was not necessarily the fault of the three governments which agreed to serve on the International Control Commission. The terms of the ICC arrangements did not permit the kind of effective monitoring of frontiers which stable peace in Southeast Asia requires. Too much blood has been spilled on all sides for us to repeat the errors of the past. We shall seek, therefore, effective means for monitoring the frontiers involved in a settlement of the Vietnam question.

18. The United States is present here because we seek a permanent peace. The USG considers that it has a mandate for a fresh look. We know that peace cannot be achieved unless both sides can take part in its achievement.

19. Ladies and Gentlemen, we here will be judged ultimately by history, not tomorrow's headlines. Let us talk without rancor and recrimination. President Nixon in his inaugural address stated in another context: "We cannot learn from one another unless we stop shouting at one another -- until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices." And he added: "Let us take as our goal: where peace is unknown make it welcome; where peace is fragile, make it strong; where peace is temporary make it permanent."

20. Ladies and Gentlemen, in that spirit let us -- together -- take up the task of peace.

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