

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL)

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October 5, 1971

TO: Ambassador Porter

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

Thank you for your Paris 1730. The proposal you have made in paragraph 2 of reference appears to be a very good one. I will discuss it with the President and be in touch with you after he has had an opportunity to consider it.

Warm personal regards .

State Dept. review completed
Pg 2 only.

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FM AMBASSADOR PORTER, PARIS 1730
TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY FOR DR. KISSINGER

1. I AM NOW QUITE SURE THAT NVN AND VC ARE FIRMLY ATTACHED TO CONCEPT THAT THESE TALKS ARE "INDISPENSABLE" AND MUST CONTINUE. IN THAT THEY RESEMBLE THE NORTH KOREANS WHO REGARD PANUMJOM DISCUSSIONS AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR PRESTIGE AND PROPAGANDA REASONS. THE WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN PARIS GIVE THE NVN/VC SOMETHING FOR WHICH THEY COULD FIND NO SUBSTITUTE. THEY NEED NOT EVEN NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY BECAUSE AS LONG AS WE KEEP COMING TO THE TABLE THEY RETAIN THE TALKS AS AN EXCELLENT SOUNDING BOARD FOR THEIR PROPAGANDA.
2. I SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE THEM PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE, PERHAPS BY USING THE ISSUE OF THEIR HARSH TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. THIS PROBABLY SHOULD NOT BE APPROACHED BY US IN PARIS, HOWEVER. IF IDEA OF EXTRACTING SOMETHING FROM THEM HAS MERIT IT MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH A DISCREET CHANNEL TO AVOID PUTTING THEM PUBLICLY IN AN EITHER/OR POSITION. IN SUCH AN APPROACH WE WOULD LET THEM KNOW THAT UNLESS THEY PROVIDE THE INFORMATION AND ASSURANCES WE HAVE REQUESTED AND PERMIT CONFIRMATION BY AN IMPARTIAL BODY WE MAY HAVE TO SUSPEND (NOT TERMIANTE) THE TALKS.
3. THE DANGER OF PASSING IT TO THEM DISCREETLY LIES OF COURSE IN POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO SUSPEND TALKS THEMSELVES ON SOME PRETEXT SUCH AS PR OTECTIVE RAID. IF THAT IS DEEMED LIKELY THEN PERHAPS THE BETTER COURSE WOULD BE TO SPRING IT ON THEM PUBLICLY AND GIVE THEM A REASONABLE PERIOD IN WHICH TO FORMULATE THEIR RESPONSE.
4. WARM REGARDS.

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