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RNA 155

INDOCHINA - JACKSON

SCOWCRAFT, LL

WASHINGTON, APRIL 8, REUTER - SENATOR HENRY JACKSON SAID TODAY HE HAD BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT SECRET COMMITMENTS EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVING FATEFUL AMERICAN DECISIONS.

THE WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRAT SAID IN A SPEECH PREPARED FOR DELIVERY TO THE SENATE THAT PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD NOW MAKE PUBLIC ALL DOCUMENTS INVOLVING THE SECRET AGREEMENTS.

"I HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT THERE EXIST BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM SECRET AGREEMENTS WHICH ENVISION FATEFUL AMERICAN DECISIONS YET WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE HAS NEVER BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED. WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHEN PRESIDENT FORD HIMSELF FIRST LEARNED OF ALL THEM," SENATOR JACKSON SAID.

DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER ACKNOWLEDGED DURING A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON SUNDAY THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF ALL THE COMMITMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1973 PARIS CEASEFIRE ACCORD.

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INDOCHINA - JACKSON 2 WASHINGTON

SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS HERE HAVE SUGGESTED THE AGREEMENTS INCLUDED A PROMISE BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON TO USE AMERICAN BOMBERS IF NORTH VIETNAM COMMITTED MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE ACCORD.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD TOLD REPORTERS YESTERDAY THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAD TOLD CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN 1973 THAT THERE WERE NO SECRET COMMITMENTS TO THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

SENATOR JACKSON, A PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER, SAID "THE ADMINISTRATION HAS INTIMATED THAT THE CONGRESS HAS RENEGED ON "COMMITMENTS" AND "OBLIGATIONS" TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THE FACT IS THAT CONGRESS IS BEING ACCUSED OF VIOLATING COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS IT NEVER HEARD OF."  
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