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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE

State Dept. review completed

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SECRET 1999 JULY FM AMB BRUCE, (PARIS 116

TO DR. HENRY KISSINGER, EYES ONLY

SENSIT IVE

DELIVER OOB

HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS

DEAR HENRY:

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 9. IN REGARD TO MAKING ANY SUGGESTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT A CHANGE IN OUR NEGOTIATING POSTURE, I HAVE NONE TO PUT FORWARD. I THINK THE POINTS IN HIS SPEECH ARE COMPLETELY VALID, AND SHOULD BE · ADHERED TO WITHOUT ANY PRESENT ALTERATION. COURSE, I RECOGNIZE THAT IF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD EVER TAKE PLCE, THERE MIGHT BE COMPROMISES ON BOTH SIDES ON DETALS, BUT THERE SHOULD NOT BE BY US ON PRINCIPLES. UNHAPPILY, OUR DIPLOMATIC HISTORY IS ALL TOO ILL-STARRED BY OUR UNNECESSARILY MAKING CONCESSION AFTER CONCESSION THROUGH IMPATIENCE TO ACHIEVE EPHEMERAL RESULTS.

I HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR BUREAUCRATIC PRESSURES FAVORING TRADING UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE. APART FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, MY GUESS IS BY SO DOING, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD WIND UP AFTER UNDERCUTTING OUR ALLIES WITHOUT ANY COMMPENSATORY GAIN.

IN REGARD TO A SECOND POINT IN YOUR LETTER. AMAZES ME THAT SO MANY PERSONS IN OUR GOVERNMENT, CONGRESS, OUR NEWS MEDIA, AND AMONGST THE PUBLIC GENERALLY, HAVE BEENFOOLED BY THE PERSISTENT COMMUNIST DEMAND FOR THE REMOVAL OF MESSRS. THIEU, KY, AND KHIEM, AND THE SUBSEQUENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT. ON THIS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NEVER RPT NEVER COMPROMISE. THIEU, KY, AND KHIEM ARE ONLY CONVENIENT NAMES AS FAR AS THE OTHER SIDE IS CONCERNED. WHAT THEY REALLY AIM AT IS THE DISMANTLING--WITH CHAOS TO FOLLOW, A CORDITION ALWAYS FAVORABLE TO THEIR DESIGNS-- OF THE STRUCTURE OF ADMINISTRATION IN SOUTH THE SHEER IMPUDENCE OF A JUNGLE-BASED MINORITY SETTING FORTH SUCH A PROPOSAL SHOULD BE No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/12/20 : LOC-HAK-246-3-13-1

UNHAPPILY, THERE ARE ALL TOO MANY GULLIBLE CITIZENS WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY REALLY INTEND, NAMELY TO SEIZE POWER BY SUBTERFUGE. THAT TACTIC IS CALSSICAL IN COMMUNIST PRACTICE, AND ALL TOO OFTEN HAS SUCCEEDED, BECAUSE OF LACK OF COMPREHENSION BY THEIR ADVERSARIES OF WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE COMMUNIST

I HOPE IT IS NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF AGE, AND HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES, THAT I FEEL STRONGLY THE DESIRABILITY OF STAKING HEAVILY ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENT HAND, AND NOT BEING BLUFFED OUT OF ITS FULL IF VIETNAMIZATION CONTINUES TO PROGRESS FAVORABLY AND WE MAINTAIN A RESONABLE FIRMNESS, OUR OPPONENTS MAY SLOWLY BEND. ABOVE ALL, WE MUT NOT BETRAY OUR OWN FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS THROUGH

SO MUCH FOR THAT HOMILY. WITH WARM REGARDS I AM EVER YOURS, DAVID

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