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O 160517Z JAN 73 ZYH  
FM VIENTIANE

25X1

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T 160517Z JAN 1973 [redacted]

FM AMBASSADOR GOOLEY VIENTIANE 647  
TO GENERAL HAIG (EYES ONLY) SAIGON  
INFO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. KISSINGER (EYES ONLY)  
SUBJECT: SUBJECTS IN WHICH SOUVANNA WILL SHOW PARTICULAR INTEREST  
REF: A. [redacted]

B. WH30095

1. BELIEVE YOU CAN EXPECT SOUVANNA TO FOCUS ON THOSE PORTIONS OF THE USG-DRV'S AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEARING ON THE SETTLEMENT IN LAOS. SPECIFICALLY, FORESEE THE PRIME MINISTER SEEKING YOUR VIEWS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES.

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A. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE TIMING OF THE CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE TIMING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN VIETNAM? THE LAST SOUVANNA HEARD WAS THAT LAOS CEASEFIRE WOULD FOLLOW WITHIN TWO WEEKS. IS THIS STILL THE LATEST AGREEMENT?

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B. SOUVANNA WILL WANT REASSURANCES ABOUT US AIR SUPPORT IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING A CEASEFIRE IN VIETNAM UNTIL CEASEFIRE SIGNED IN LAOS. WHILE HE HAS RECEIVED THESE ASSURANCES FROM YOU BEFORE, THE MILITARY SITUATION IN MR'S V, IV, AND I ARE PRECARIOUS AND HE UNDOUBTEDLY FEARS THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME SPAN BETWEEN THE TWO CEASEFIRES TO STRENGTHEN LPF BARGAINING POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS BY IMPROVING LPF/NVA MILITARY POSTURE.

C. YOU WILL RECALL FROM YOUR MEETING HERE LAST MONTH SOUVANNA'S CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF NVA FORCES PRESENTLY IN SOUTH VIETNAM THROUGH LAOS. SOUVANNA PLED THAT NVA MUST NOT BE WITHDRAWN THROUGH LAOS PANHANDLE SINCE HE FEARED SOME NVA CADRES WOULD REMAIN BEHIND WITH LPF. HE MAY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED TO ON THIS SUBJECT. ALSO, TO EXTENT THAT NVA IS ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN SOUTH VIETNAM, HE WILL BE INTERESTED TO HEAR HOW THESE ENEMY FORCES WILL BE RESUPPLIED WITHOUT VIOLATING LAO TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.

D. HE WILL ALSO WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAS

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NSC Reviews  
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BEEN AGREED ON BETWEEN USG AND DRV ON WITHDRAWAL OF NVA FROM LAOS. EXPERIENCE IN 1962 HAS SHOWN THAT NVA WILL NOT AGREE TO ICC SUPERVISION OF NVA WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WILL WANT TO BE APPRISED AGAIN OF PROVISIONS FOR NVA WITHDRAWAL AND HOW RLG WILL KNOW THAT WITHDRAWAL IS ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE. IN THIS CONNECTION, I NOTE THAT BOTH RLG AND LPF DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON A CEASEFIRE CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LAOS WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF SIGNING OF A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IN VIENTIANE.

E. SOUVANNA MAY ALSO WANT TO KNOW OUR THINKING ON TIMING AND EXTENT OF WITHDRAWAL OF THAI SGU'S AND US PARAMILITARY PERSONNAL. SOUVANNA PLANS TO FLY TO NEW DELHI JANUARY 27 TO DISCUSS WITH MADAME GANDHI ROLE OF A STRENGTHENED ICC IN POST CEASEFIRE PERIOD AND HE MAY SEEK YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE BROADER TOPIC OF WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM LAOS BEFORE DISCUSSING THE SUPERVISION OF THE WITHDRAWAL WITH INDIA PRESIDENT.

F. SOUVANNA IS ALSO WORRIED THAT NVA WILL NOT RESPECT LAO TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AS LONG AS FIGHTING CONTINUES IN CAMBODIA. HE WILL PROBABLY ASK WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON BETWEEN USG AND DRV REGARDING CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN CAMBODIA.

G. FINALLY, HE WILL WANT TO KNOW WHATEVER YOU CAN TELL HIM REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR TIMING OF CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS SINCE THIS MAY AFFECT HIS TRAVEL PLANS. HE PLANS TO LEAVE VIENTIANE FOR INDIA JANUARY 27 AND RETURN FEBRUARY 2 OR 3. IF IT LOOKS LIKELY THAT A SETTLEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON VIETNAM DURING THAT PERIOD, HE MAY NOT WISH TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM VIENTIANE.

H. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, THERE IS SOME SKEPTICISM AMONG KEY LAO LEADERS THAT DRV WILL CARRY OUT PROVISIONS OF ANY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH USG OR OF ACCORDS SIGNED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE SURROGATES SUCH AS LPF IN LAOS. SOUVANNA MAY ONCE AGAIN INQUIRE HOW THE USG PLANS TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM.

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