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TO: Jon Howe For Gen. Harg

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July 9, 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HAIG

FROM: William L. Stearman

SUBJECT: Additional Communist Clarification of the "7 Points"

In private conversations with the French, and in further public statements, the Communist side has provided additional clarification of the "7-point" proposal.

Political and Military Linkage

In conversations with Froment-Meurice, Madame Binh (on June 18) and Xuan Thuy (on June 21) stressed the indivisibility of political and military considerations in any settlement.

The day after she made her "7-point" proposal, Madame Binh told Schumann that while these two aspects are linked, withdrawal could be settled first, while the Vietnamese start their study of political problems. She added that the Vietnamese elections provide President Nixon with an excellent opportunity to start moving toward a settlement of the war, but if the U. S. retains Thieu in power, it would show President Nixon does not want peace.

In the July 8 session, Madame Binh accused the U. S. of using the "Saigon Administration" to implement its policies of "aggression" and Vietnamization. She thus associated the GVN with two of the point one withdrawal demands (and the U. S. "war of aggression" and stop Vietnamization).

U. S. Aid

Xuan Thuy and Madame Binh both told Froment-Meurice that withdrawal included economic and military assistance. Thuy said they were using withdrawal in a generic sense, meaning the total stoppage

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of assistance to the present Saigon regime by all nations on the U.S. side.

Thuy also stated that economic assistance could be discussed with some other (post-Thieu) administration. (This follows the line taken by Le Duc Tho on July 6.)

Although these statements preceded the "7-point" proposal, they undoubtedly represent the present Communist position.

The PRG spokesman on July 8 stated "withdrawal" (under point one) did not include equipment turned over to the GVN. This, he said, relates to point three (status of Vietnamese armed forces) and would be dealt with later.

Timing of the "7 Points"

On July 2, Mai Van Bo gave French representative in Hanoi Susini the following reasons why the "7 points" had been presented now:

- A new withdrawal date was needed (the earlier one having been overtaken);
- The imminence of the South Vietnamese presidential elections;
- The favorable international and American climate.

Bo contended that rejection of the "7 points" would seriously complicate Thieu's reelection. He denied that NLF election statements either favored or opposed General Minh.

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