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FM SITUATION ROOM
TO ROYMAN/LORD FOR DR KISSINGER
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UNCLAS #H27155

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AUGUST 15 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE LEAD STORIES IN THIS MORNING'S POST, TIMES AND SUN CONCERN
THEMSELVES WITH YOUR 16TH MEETING WITH LE DUC THOAND XUAN THUY.
MURREY MARDER OF THE POST SEES THE MEETINGS COMING ON A FORT-
NIGHTLY PATTERN.

THE WASHINGTON POST

FROM SAN FRANCISCO, FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK STATED
THAT THE ELECTION OF MCGOVERN WOULD TRIGGER THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OF SOME U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR NEXT JANUARY 20 AND THE RELEASE OF
ALL OF THEM IN ANOTHER THREE MONTHS. (A-1)

IN THE SENATE, MEMBERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SALT DEBATE HAVE
CHARGED EACH OTHER WITH STALLING. SENATORS FULBRIGHT AND JACK-
SON SQUARED OFF OVER JACKSONS' PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SET A TOUGH
U.S. BARGAINING POSITION DURING THE SECOND ROUND OF THE TALKS.
HOWEVER, MANY OF THEIR EXCHANGES WERE CONCERNED MORE WITH PER-
SONAL ISSUES RATHER THAN THE AMENDMENTS. WHEN QUESTIONED BY
SENATOR PASTORE WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION BACKED HIS AMENDMENT
"WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION" AND "WITHOUT RESERVATION" AND "ABSOLUTELY,"
JACKSON ANSWERED REPEATING EVERY PHRASE AFFIRMATIVELY. SENATOR
SYMINGTON URGED THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKE KNOWN HIS POSITION ON THE
ISSUE TO THE SENATE IN WRITING. FULBRIGHT HAD A DEEPER COMPLAINT
ABOUT THE JACKSON AMENDMENT, SAYING IT WOULD ERODE THE SOVIET
UNION'S TRUST IN AMERICA'S GOOD FAITH IN ARMS LIMITATION BARGAIN-
ING AND FURTHER SAID THAT GOOD FAITH IS THE ONLY REAL ENFORCEMENT
DEVICE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH AGREEMENTS. (A-4)

A REUTERS DISPATCH NOTES THAT YESTERDAY THE WHITE HOUSE HAILED A
RECENT SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS PERMITTED TO
EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL, BUT DENIED IT WAS THE RESULT OF A SECRET DEAL
THE PRESIDENT MADE IN MOSCOW. GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER REPORTEDLY
SAID IN JERUSALEM ON SUNDAY THAT MR. NIXON "SECURED AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE SOVIETS, PERMITTING 35,000 JEWS A YEAR TO GO TO ISRAEL.

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ROCKEFELLER TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED. "IT WAS A MEETING OF THE MINDS IN MOSCOW. I KNOW OF NO FORMAL AGREEMENT." SAID THE GOVERNOR. (A-15)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

FROM WASHINGTON: THE HOUSE GAVE FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL YESTERDAY TO A SENATE BILL REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS WITHIN 60 DAYS THE TEXT OF ANY EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE LEGISLATION IS NOT RETROACTIVE AND DOES NOT APPLY TO TREATIES THAT PRESIDENTS SUBMIT TO THE SENATE FOR ITS EXCLUSIVE APPROVAL. (A-2)

SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM HAS AGAIN PRODDED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER A UN ROLE IN BRINGING PEACE TO VIETNAM. CHINA REBUFFED WALDHEIM WHEN HE MADE A SIMILAR EFFORT LAST SPRING. MR. WALDHEIM BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT AGAIN SATURDAY IN A SPEECH IN PEKING. (A-4)

NOTING YOUR TRIP TO PARIS TO MEET WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS, THE SUN POINTS TO SPECULATION THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FROM YOUR STOP-OVER IN LAAX, SWITZERLAND. RONALD EIGLER LEFT THIS SPECULATION WHEN HE DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER YOU WERE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. (A-4)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

AFTER AN EIGHT-DAY STAY IN PERU, THE EIGHT-MAN CHINESE TRADE MISSION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PAI HSIANG-KUO IS NOW IN SANTIAGO, CHILE, FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ALLENDE. THE CHINESE ARE VISITING CHILE MAINLY TO FILL IN THE DETAILS OF A BROAD FRAMEWORK OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS ALREADY CONCLUDED IN PRINCIPLE. TRADE MISSIONS SUCH AS THIS ONE SEEM TO BE CHINA'S MAIN VEHICLE IN ESTABLISHING FRIENDSHIPS AND DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA. (A-9)

IN AN EDITORIAL ON JAPANESE PREMIER TANAKA'S UPCOMING VISIT TO PEKING, THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT TAIWAN IS MR. TANAKA'S CHIEF PROBLEM. IT STRONGLY POINTS OUT THE NEWLY-ELECTED JAPANESE PREMIER'S WILLINGNESS TO SEVERE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEKING; ABOVE THE UNITED STATES HAS REFUSED TO TAKE. JAPAN IS HOPING THAT PEKING WILL ACCEPT A NULLIFICATION OF THE TAIWAN PACT THROUGH A PEACE TREATY WITH CHINA. MR. TANAKA'S AGGRESSIVE INITIATIVE IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM WITH CHINA SUGGESTS THAT HE HAS SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHINA WILL BE FLEXIBLE ON MANY FRONTS. (A-32)

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CLARK SAYS NORTH VIETNAM MAY FREE A FEW POWS; (WALLACE TURNER) RAMSEY CLARK, A FORMER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL, SAID HERE TODAY THAT HE THOUGHT THAT A FEW AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR WOULD BE RELEASED SOON BY NORTH VIETNAM.

MR. CLARK'S STATEMENT WAS MADE AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO NORTH VIETNAM THAT ENDED SATURDAY.

"I URGED THEM TO RELEASE SOME PRISONERS, AND I SAY FRANKLY I THINK THEY WILL -- A FEW, I DON'T KNOW WHEN," HE SAID. "BUT WHAT THEY TELL YOU -- AND YOU KNOW I HAVE A LITTLE DIFFICULTY ARGUING WITH IT -- IS "WE CAN'T RELEASE PILOTS WHEN PILOTS ARE BOMBING OUR CHILDREN."

MR. CLARK CHOSE HIS WORDS CAREFULLY WHEN ASKED WHETHER AMERICAN MILITARY COMMANDERS HAD ATTEMPTED DELIBERATELY TO DESTROY THE SYSTEM OF DIKES IN NORTH VIETNAM.

"I SAW DAMAGE TO DIKES, SLUICES AND CANALS OF A SUBSTANTIAL NATURE AT LEAST SIX PLACES," HE SAID IN A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE ST. FRANCIS HOTEL HERE. "AT A COUPLE OF PLACES, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT IT WAS A MASSIVE ASSAULT. AT THE TIME I SAW IT THERE WERE NO MILITARY TARGETS THERE."

HE SAID ALSO THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH TARGETS, PERHAPS ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES, COULD HAVE BEEN MOVED AWAY BEFORE HE SAW THE DIKE DAMAGE.

IN A 40-MINUTE STATEMENT AND IN THE 20 MINUTES OF QUESTIONING THAT FOLLOWED, MR. CLARK REPEATEDLY ATTACKED THE BOMBING ON MORAL GROUNDS. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN A HOSPITAL THAT WAS DESTROYED BY BOMBS BETWEEN LAST DECEMBER, WHEN, HE SAID, IT WAS SEEN BY AN AMERICAN VISITOR, AND THE TIME MR. CLARK SAW IT.

"WE ARE BOMBING THE HELL OUT OF THAT POOR LAND," HE SAID. "WE ARE HITTING HOSPITALS. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHETHER IT'S DELIBERATE. BUT TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING HIT, IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE. DOES IT?"

MR. CLARK SAID THAT HE HAD A LETTER FROM HANOI'S DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NGUYEN DUY TRINH, CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

HE DID NOT DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF THE LETTER BUT HE READ FROM HIS OWN NOTES OF MR. TRINH'S STATEMENTS DURING THEIR TWO-HOUR INTERVIEW. MR. CLARK MADE THE POINT THAT THE NOTES WERE BASED ON THE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS AS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

READING FROM HIS NOTES, MR. CLARK QUOTED MR. TRINH AS HAVING SAID: "WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL ISSUE, I WILL GUARANTEE THE SOLUTION OF THE PRISONER PROBLEM AND THE RETURN OF ALL THE PRISONERS."

UNCLAS

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2012/02/13 : LOC-HAK-255-1-15-1

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ANOTHER STATEMENT WAS THAT A SETTLEMENT MUST BE MADE ON THE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT'S SEVEN POINTS AND TWO ADDITIONS" BEFORE THE PRISONER ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

ON JULY 1, 1971, THE VIETCONG PROPOSED A SEVEN-POINT PEACE PLAN IN PARIS THAT PROVIDED FOR A SIMULTANEOUS EXCHANGE OF ALL PRISONERS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES AND ALLIED FORCES FROM SOUTH VIETNAM.

MR. CLARK QUOTED MR. TRINH AS HAVING SAID THAT "NIXON IS MORE INTERESTED IN THE FATE OF THE TRIEU GOVERNMENT THAN IN THE FATE OF THE U.S. PRISONERS."

MR. CLARK SAID HE HAD BEEN TAKEN ONE NIGHT TO A PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, WHICH HE DID NOT NAME OR LOCATE, AND PERMITTED TO SEE THE ROOMS OF 10 PRISONERS, AND TO TALK TO THE PRISONERS FOR A LONG PERIOD. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED THAT THE PRISONERS BE RELEASED.

"THEY'VE GOT THE POWER"

"I TALKED AND PLEADED BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I COULD DO," HE SAID. "YOU CAN'T DEMAND, WHEN IT COMES TO THE PRISONERS, THEY'VE GOT THE POWER, DON'T THEY? THE B-52S HAVEN'T DONE MUCH GOOD YET."

"I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PRISONS IN MY LIFE," SAID MR. CLARK, WHO AS ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD CONTROL OF FEDERAL PRISONS IN THE UNITED STATES. "THESE 10 MEN WERE UNQUESTIONABLY HUMANELY TREATED, WELL TREATED. THEIR INDIVIDUAL ROOMS WERE BETTER AND BIGGER THAN THE ROOMS IN ESSENTIALLY EVERY PRISON I HAVE EVER VISITED ANYWHERE."

HE SAID THE FOOD WAS AMPLE AND THAT THERE WAS A VEGETABLE GARDEN OUTSIDE. HE SAID THAT THE MEN THOUGHT THE PRISON HAD BEEN THERE SINCE 1965, ALTHOUGH THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN THERE LONGEST HAD ARRIVED IN THE SPRING OF 1971. MR. CLARK SAID THAT THE MEN HAD TOLD HIM THE PRISON WAS MUCH THE SAME AS OTHERS THEY HAD BEEN IN.

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