

U N C L A S S I F I E D 162227Z AUG 72 VIA BUNKER CHNLS
FROM: SITUATION ROOM

TO: RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

CITE: WHS2 120

TOHAK 47

HEREWITH UPI AND AP PRESS ITEMS - REFERENCE TO MCGOVERN

SENDING SALINGER TO PARIS AS HIS EMMISARY:

UPI-125

(VIET TALKS)

NEW YORK -- FORMER PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY PIERRE SALINGER DISCLOSED TODAY HE MET PRIVATELY WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATORS IN PARIS AS AN EMMISARY OF GEORGE MCGOVERN AND TOLD THEM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HOPED THEY WOULD PRESS PEACE TALKS "WITHOUT REGARD TO THE AMERICAN ELECTION."

SALINGER, WHO FLEW HERE WEDNESDAY FROM PARIS, SAID THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HAD ASKED HIM TO TALK TO THE HANOI DELEGATION "TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN HANOI'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE RELEASE OF ANY OR ALL OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR.

"DURING THESE SAME DISCUSSIONS I MAKE CLEAR TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHAT GEORGE MCGOVERN HAS SAID PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY ON MANY OCCASIONS AND THAT IS IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF THEM TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO WITHOUT REGARD TO THE AMERICAN ELECTION,

THAT SENATOR MCGOVERN'S DESIRE FOR PEACE WAS GREATER THAN HIS DESIRE FOR THE ISSUE OF THE VIETNAM WAR TO CONTINUE." SALINGER

SAID

THAT MCGOVERN HAD SENT WORD TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE THROUGH SALINGER THAT THEY SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS IN NOVEMBER TO MAKE PEACE.

MCGOVERN, CAMPAIGNING IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL., SAID THERE WAS "NO TRUTH" IN THE REPORT.

SALINGER, WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S PRESS SECRETARY AND IS COCHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MCGOVERN, SAID THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MCGOVERN CONCERNED THE PRISONERS OF WAR BUT DURING TWO TALKS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HE ALSO MADE CLEAR MCGOVERN'S PUBLICLY STATED POSITION ON THE NEED FOR A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO THE ELECTIONS.

8-16--WC505 PED

UPI-131

ADD VIET TALKS, NEW YORK (UPI-125)

SALINGER SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO MCGOVERN THE DAY AFTER THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION AND THAT MCGOVERN, "KNOWING THAT I WAS GOING TO PARIS, ASKED ME TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION THERE" TO DISCUSS THE AMERICAN PRISONERS.

"I MET WITH THEM TWICE -- ON JULY 18 AND AUG. 9 -- AND DURING THE SECOND MEETING THEY INFORMED ME THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THEIR POSITION WITH REGARD TO PRISONERS OF WAR, THAT THE RELEASE HAS TO BE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT AS OUTLINED AT THE NEGOTIATIONS," HE SAID.

SALINGER REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THE DELEGATION MEMBERS WITH WHOM HE TALKED BUT SAID THEY WERE NOT HANOI DELEGATION CHIEF XUAN THUY OR LE DUC THO, THE KEY NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATOR WHO HAS BEEN MEETING IN SECRET TALKS WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HENRY A. KISSINGER.

HE SAID THE MEETINGS WERE HELD AT THE DEMOCRATIC DELEGATIONS' S HEADQUARTERS.

SALINGER SAID HE GAVE HIS FIRST REPORT ON THE MEETINGS TO MCGOVERN AFTER HE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK WEDNESDAY. HE SAID HE HAD NOT REPORTED SOONER BECAUSE THE SENATOR "KNEW I WAS RETURNING AND WOULD CALL."

MCGOVERN SELECTED SALINGER AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONVENTION BUT SALINGER WITHDREW WHEN BASIL PATTERSON, A BLACK FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR, WAS NOMINATED FOR THE POST.

SALINGER, A BUSINESS CONSULTANT IN LONDON, WILL JOIN THE MCGOVERN CAMPAIGN STAFF FULLTIME IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

8-16--WC520PED

UPI-141

MCGOVERN-SALINGER (TOPS 115)

BY BROOKS JACKSON

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) - SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD SENT PIERRE SALINGER TO PARIS TO SEE IF NORTH VIETNAM WOULD RELEASE U. S. PRISONERS BEFORE THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR BUT THAT HANOI WOULD NOT BUDGE.

HE SAID SALINGER TOLD HANOI'S NEGOTIATORS DURING HIS TALKS THAT MCGOVERN WANTS THEM TO END THE WAR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE EVEN IF IT MEANS DOING SO BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

MCGOVERN'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAME IN A MIDWEST CAMPAIGN SWING. THE STATEMENT CAME ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER MCGOVERN DENIED SENDING SALINGER TO PARIS WITH ANY SPECIFIC MISSION.

"PIERRE SALINGER HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS WHATSOEVER FROM ME,"

MCGOVERN TOLD NE No Objection To Declassification in Full 2012/02/13 : LOC-HAK-255-1-32-2

HE SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN SALINGER IN SEVERAL WEEKS AND HAD NOT SENT ANY MESSAGE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

BUT THE WRITTEN STATEMENT SAID: "I HAVE JUST CONFERRED BY PHONE WITH PIERRE SALINGER IN REFERENCE TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS. MR. SALINGER HAD PLANNED TO RETURN TO PARIS FOLLOWING THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION AND AT MY REQUEST HE MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION IN PARIS."

"THE ONLY PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS TO DETERMINE IF ANY CHANGE HAD OCCURRED WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE PRISONERS PRIOR TO THE END OF HOSTILITIES," MCGOVERN SAID.

"MR. SALINGER FOUND NO CHANGE IN THE PUBLICLY STATED POSITION OF HANOI. MR. SALINGER ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT I HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED MY CONVICTION THAT THE END OF THE WAR SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BY A SINGLE DAY BECAUSE OF THE AMERICAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

JCS527PED AUG 16.

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