

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION LISTING

DATE 04/24/73//114

SITUATION: HAK
 SUBJECT CATAGORY: OUTGOING

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 48

TO JON HOWE FOR DR. KISSINGER

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TOHAK 48

MARCH 21, 1973

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

THE DRV MEMBER OF THE FPJMC HAS JUST VOLUNTEERED TO RELEASE ALL US POWS BY MARCH 25 AND TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELEASE OF THOSE HELD BY THE PATHET LAO BY MARCH 28 IF WE ARE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ALL OF OUR FORCES BY MARCH 25.

THE PRESIDENT JUST CALLED ME DOWN (0800 HOURS) TO TALK FURTHER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF STRIKING THE TRAIL. HE FEELS WE SHOULD NOT AGREE TO WITHDRAW OUR FORCES UNTIL WE HAVE THOSE HELD BY THE PATHET LAO AND THEREFORE DOES NOT WANT TO AGREE TO A WITHDRAWAL BY MARCH 25. HE FEELS THIS ALSO GIVES US SOMEWHAT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IF WE ARE TO MAKE A STRIKE.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ORDER A STRIKE BUT ONLY IF IT IS FELT THAT IT WILL DO SOME REAL GOOD, AND HE ASKS YOUR JUDGMENT IN THAT REGARD. WE MUST MAKE A DECISION BY THIS EVENING.

THE ONLY NEW INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE RECEIVED IS THAT 16 GROUPS OF CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR-TYPES ARE MOVING INTO THE PIPELINE AND THERE ARE SOME TENTATIVE SENSOR INDICATIONS THAT TRUCKS WHICH HAD BEEN MOVING NORTH ARE NOW BEGINNING TO MOVE SOUTH AGAIN.

I TOLD THE PRESIDENT WE WOULD HAVE YOUR LATEST THOUGHTS BY EARLY AFTERNOON.

WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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