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INFORMATION

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February 23, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE FILES

MORI C05099625

SUBJECT:

Minutes of the Vietnam Ad Hoc Group Meeting of February 15, 1972

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Paris Talks

Ambassador Sullivan said that we had announced in Paris that we won't be meeting next week and intend to remain vague on scheduling a meeting on the 24th. He noted that there were persistent rumors that Lo Duc Tho will be in Peking during the President's visit.

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Possible Hanoi-Moscow Differences

PACOM review completed by OSD.

Ambassador Sullivan drew attention to a report from Moscow that the North Vietnamese Ambassador had seen Soviet Premier Kosygin three times in less than two weeks and that the public characterization of the talks as being conducted in an "atmosphere of comradely frankness" could be evidence that there was some divergency of views in these exchanges.

Sihanouk in Hanoi

Ambassador Sullivan reported that Sihanouk had arrived in Hanoi for a three week stay but it appears that there will probably be no Indochina Summit Conference in Hanoi during his visit.

Communits Offensive Plans

[redacted] said that the Communists need at least another ten days to get ready for any significant offensive and that regiments are still moving into the northern part of MR I and the B-3 Front. COSVN could be planning to undermine the impact of the President's trip with stepped-up offensives. However, these attacks could take place anytime, and CIA hesitates to get locked into any specific date.

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CINCPAC On Psyops

Ambassador Sullivan drew attention to a recent message from CINCPAC which outlines its plans to take over psychological operations in Southeast Asia.

POW Matters

Ambassador Sullivan said that we had not yet received any information on GVN plans to release POWs on the occasion of Tet. He also reported on an incident in the Phu Quoc prison camp in which South Vietnamese guards killed 7 POWs and wounded 14 others when they insisted on decorating PW graves with wreaths bearing the VC flag.

Visit of Korean Defense Minister

Ambassador Sullivan said that State had requested a report from Saigon on the recent visit of the Korean Defense Minister.

Oil Bids

Ambassador Sullivan said he did not know whether or not bids on oil exploration rights had been received by the GVN on the February 10 deadline. Mr. Stearman reported the President had decided that the U.S. should not intervene in this matter.

Aid Appropriations

Mr. Arthur predicted that there would be some problem with aid appropriations and that there would be an interregnum without even a continuing resolution -- except possibly for pay purposes.

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