

25X1

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~

200240Z March 1971

FROM: GENERAL HAIG, SAIGON 651

**TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
DR. KISSINGER**

During yesterday's meeting with President Thieu, I raised with him the possibility of his undertaking a political initiative after Cambodia and Laos and along the lines of the programs mentioned to him by me last December. Thieu was very unresponsive. He stated that before very long his political opponents would surface a full array of peace formulas and that there would be no paucity of ideas of this kind. He added that the campaign oratory would begin probably in May and conveyed the impression that he would definitely prefer to keep his own powder dry until he had an opportunity to assess carefully the shots of his opponents.

Prior to yesterday's meeting with Thieu, I reviewed with Ambassador Bunker the special Paris initiative. He confirmed that he would like more time to consider the proposal but had the following initial views:

- The special Paris forum is the best means to proceed.
- The terminal date - POW exchange proposal must be linked with a ceasefire proposal for all of Indochina if it is to have any attractiveness to the GVN.
- The proposal should however be explored in the special Paris channel before it is raised with the GVN.
- The ceasefire modalities should include some provision for supervision to include the problem of infiltration.

Ambassador Bunker is generally enthusiastic about the proposal which he believes may be timely and poses attractive incentives to both sides. He will give this intense study and report further via this channel exclusively to you. Best regards.

OSD, State reviews completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI C05076888

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~