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State Dept. review completed

1972 OCT 6 AM 7 30

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 061030Z OCT 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)
 FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER SAIGON 0182 IMMEDIATE
 TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER
 REF: WHS 2210

1. I DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT THIEU THIS AFTERNOON. THIEU ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT AND WAS OBVIOUSLY GREATLY PLEASED BY THE MESSAGE.
2. THIEU SAID THAT HE HAD WANTED TO WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE GVN FACED CONCERNING POINT 4 OF OUR PEACE PROPOSALS AND THE INTERNAL DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES THESE COULD POSE. HE REFERRED TO THE UNREST WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED AMONG THE MILITARY IN 1963 (AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MENTIONED TO GENERAL HAIG) BY RUMORS THAT DIEM, THROUGH MADAME NHU, WAS CONSIDERING ENTERING INTO A PACT WITH THE COMMUNISTS.
3. THIEU SAID THAT AT HIS MEETING YESTERDAY WITH THE CORPS COMMANDERS, HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO REFER TO THE MANY RUMORS WHICH WERE PREVALENT ABOUT AN IMMINENT SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR AND A CEASE-FIRE, PROBABLY HEIGHTENED BY HIS MEETINGS WITH GENERAL HAIG, AND ADJURED THEM NOT TO GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO THESE RUMORS. HE ASSURED THEM THAT IF THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS NATURE THEY WOULD BE INFORMED. THE GVN, HE SAID, WILL CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH U.S. PEACE INITIATIVES. HE WARNED THEM THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE U.S. ELECTION WAS A SENSITIVE ONE WHICH THE COMMUNISTS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BY SPREADING RUMORS AND PROPAGANDA. THEIR (THE CORPS COMMANDERS) DUTY WAS TO CONSOLIDATE MILITARY GAINS, TO KEEP PUSHING BACK THE ENEMY, AND TO RESTORE PACIFICATION. THIEU SAID THAT HE HAD ADMONISHED THEM THAT "WE MUST NOT BE AFRAID OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT".
4. THIEU SAID THAT HIS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT BE READY BEFORE SUNDAY INDICATING, I THINK, THAT HE NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION THAT HE CONSIDER THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BEFORE COMPLETING HIS LETTER. I THINK THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER CAME AT A MOST OPPORTUNE MOMENT; IT CLEARLY HAD A REASSURING AND STEADYING EFFECT ON THIEU.
5. WARM REGARDS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

EXCLUSIVE

EYES ONLY

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE