

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL VIA CAS)

WHS-0035

SECRET

State Dept.
review completed

May 1, 1970

Refs: (a) Saigon 249

(b) Saigon 319

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TO: Ambassador Bunker
FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

Apologize for delay in responding to reference (a). We were, of course, reluctant here to confirm your travel plans pending outcome of recent Presidential decisions. You will be receiving confirmatory message through State channels on your visit together with necessary transportation arrangements, which are consistent with plans outlined in paragraph 2, reference (b).

I have passed to the President your comments on his speech and you should know he is deeply grateful for your unwavering and consistent support throughout this difficult period.

Concerning paragraph 3, of reference (b), we have taken measures here to insure that Thieu's sensitivity regarding arms shipments are carefully taken into account.

I also am most grateful for your thoughtful and sage counsel during recent days, especially for the prompt and responsive message you and General Abrams prepared during the early morning hours of April 29.

MORI/CDF
C03322744

I look forward to seeing you next week. Best regards.
HAK:AMH:lds:5/1/70

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SECRET 271055 APR 70 VIA CAS CHANNELS

FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON 249

TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, HENRY A KISSINGER

1. YOU MAY RECALL THAT I HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR THE CEREMONY IN CONNECTION WITH THE SYLVANUS THAYER AWARD AT WEST POINT ON MAY 2 AND FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON SUBSEQUENTLY. SOMETIME AGO, BILZ SULLIVAN INFORMED ME THAT SINCE PHIL HABIB WAS ALSO RETURNING, IT WAS PLANNED THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH YOU, POSSIBLY THE PRESIDENT, AND OTHERS WERE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11 AND 12. I AM ALSO SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MAY 14, WHICH I AM NOT PARTICULARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO.

2. SINCE CAROL WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCOMPANY ME DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF HER DCM, I HAD PLANNED TO LEAVE HERE MAY 2 OR 3, LEAVE KATHMANDU ON THE 5TH AND ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON THE NIGHT OF MAY 6. SINCE THE SITUATION HERE HAS CHANGED CONSIDERABLY WITHIN THE LAST WEEKS, I HAVE WANTED TO SEND THIS REMINDER OF MY PLANS IN CASE YOU OR THE PRESIDENT FEEL I SHOULD CHANGE THEM

NEW SUBJECT:

3. WHILE I REPORTED ON SATURDAY THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WAS GREATLY DISTURBED AND UPSET BY THE LEAK ON THE SHIPMENT OF AK-47'S TO PHNOM PENH, WHEN I SAW HIM THIS MORNING HE WAS MUCH MORE RELAXED, TO WHICH A DAY'S FISHING YESTERDAY AT VUNG TAU NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN ALREADY THE MESSAGES WHICH HAVE GONE OUT ON THE SHIPMENT TO BE MADE AT 0300, TOMORROW APRIL 28 (SAIGON 6393 AND 6395), THE LATTER REFLECTING THIEU'S PRESENT MORE OPTIMISTIC MOOD.

4. BEST REGARDS.

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM
70 MAY 1 AM 6:30

C O N F I D E N T I A L 010026Z MAY 70 VIA CAS CHANNELS

FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON 319

TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, HENRY A. KISSINGER

REF: SAIGON-249

1. IN REFTEL, I MENTIONED MY TENTATIVE PLAN TO LEAVE HERE MAY 2 OR 3 WITH STOPOVER IN KATHMANDU AND ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON NIGHT OF MAY 6. I MENTIONED THAT BECAUSE OF CHANGE IN SITUATION HERE, I WANTED TO SEND REMINDER OF MY PLANS IN CASE YOUR OR THE PRESIDENT FELT I SHOULD CHANGE THEM.

2. BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS HERE, I HAVE DELAYED PLANS FOR DEPARTURE AND HAVE TODAY SENT MESSAGE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTING DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON MAY 5, ARRIVAL WASHINGTON NIGHT OF MAY 6. I WOULD PLAN TO PICK UP PHIL HABIS IN PARIS. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFERENT VIEWS.

3. I HAVE SENT SEPARATE MESSAGE ON PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. I TALKED WITH THIEU IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD WHO WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH IT, CONSIDERED IT A SOUND STATEMENT WHICH SHOWED CLEAR U.S. POSITION WHICH WILL BE WELCOMED IN VIET-NAM.

4. BEST REGARDS.

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