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Approved
Dues
410

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

ACTION
June 20, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Proposed Back Channel Message to
Ambassador Bunker

This is the back channel message which could be sent.

Approve RN

Disapprove _____

Other _____

Attachment

DOS, NSS reviews completed.

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL VIA CAS)

June 20, 1969

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY/EXCLUSIVELY FOR

TO: Ambassador Bunker

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

The President has asked that you inform President Thieu as soon as possible that the comments made with respect to the withdrawal of U. S. forces at the President's Press Conference on June 19 should be seen in the context of buying time in a complex domestic situation. We will tell the press that these are targets, but that actual decisions depend on the three criteria previously announced. You should specifically reaffirm the President's Midway declarations. You may tell Thieu that we are thinking of some bold moves further down the line which may speed up the sort of settlement we discussed. At that time, other measures must be considered, and it is absolutely essential that the American people have confidence that the President has made every possible effort to arrive at a peaceful settlement.

Please call President Thieu's attention to the strong statement of personal support in the press conference.

Please advise when you have discussed this matter with Thieu and provide us with your personal appraisal, through this channel, of Thieu's attitude.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY/EXCLUSIVELY FOR