

REF ID: A16223

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OO 06972
DE WTE #3657 2711405

O 271404Z SEP 72
FM THE SITUATION ROOM
TO WINSTON LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER
ZEM
UNCLAS WH29495

TOHAK 30

ACFT: HOLD FOR ARRIVAL OF PARTY

NSA review completed

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

SEPTEMBER 27, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: JIM FAZIO

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

State Dept. review completed

~~PATNET LAO ANNOUNCE NEW PEACE TALKS WITH SOUVANNA: PATHET LAO LEADER PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA ANNOUNCING THAT THE LAO COMMUNISTS WILL SEND A "COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND RESOLVE QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE IN PREPARATION FOR A MEETING OF INTERESTED LAO PARTIES TO FIND A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ALL." THE LETTER -- DELIVERED ON SEPTEMBER 22 BY THE PATHET LAO VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE, SOTH PETHRASI -- REPEATS THAT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY ISSUES ARE "INSEPARABLE" AND AGAIN DEMANDS A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL U.S. BOMBING HALT. IN A TALK WITH AMBASSADOR GODLEY, SOUVANNA DESCRIBED THE NEW MESSAGE AS A DEFINITE STEP FORWARD IN THAT THE PATHET LAO PROPOSE TO SEND A HIGH RANKING DELEGATION AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, REPORTEDLY ELATED BY THE NEW MESSAGE, SOUVANNA TOLD GODLEY THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE THE DELEGATION AS SOON AS IT ARRIVES. GODLEY HAS COMMENTED THAT THE TEXT OF THE SEPTEMBER 22 MESSAGE DOES NOT SEEM TO JUSTIFY THE PRIME MINISTER'S ELATION.~~

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, ON SEPTEMBER 26 THE PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG HAD SENT A LETTER TO SOUVANNA ON SEPTEMBER 22 "PROPOSING THAT THE TWO SIDES APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO ENGAGE IN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS...."

SOUVANNA'S LAST CONTACT WITH THE PATHET LAO OCCURRED ON AUGUST 30 WHEN HE HANDED A LETTER TO SPECIAL EMISSARY SOUK VONGSAK DENYING THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE PATHET LAO'S 5 POINTS AS THE EXCLUSIVE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND AGAIN DEMANDING STRICT INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF ANY CEASEFIRE. (ADAMS)

AFP INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT THIEU: PRESIDENT THIEU REPORTEDLY TOLD AN AFP REPORTER -- IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 20 -- THAT HANOI IS IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING A "PARTIAL

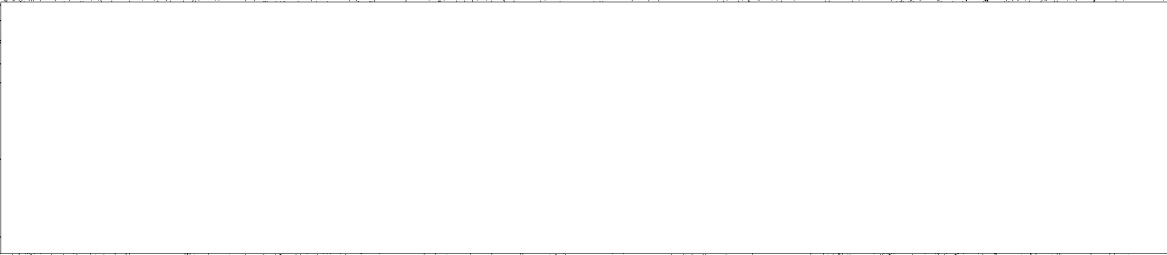
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-2-

AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD END THE BOMBING
OF NORTH VIETNAM IN EXCHANGE OF A POW RELEASE. THE AFP CORRES-
PONDENT ALSO TOLD OUR CONSUL IN DANANG THAT THIEU COMPLETELY
RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF A CEASEFIRE BEFORE THE U.S. PRESI-
DENTIAL ELECTIONS. (ADAMS) ✓✓



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