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State Dept. review completed

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VIA BUNKER CHANNELS
FROM: SITUATION ROOM TOHAIG 55
TO: LT COL BROWN FOR GENERAL HAIG
CITE: WHS3053

DIA review completed.

JANUARY 18, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES
REPORT OF BOMBING IN NORTH VIETNAM:

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[REDACTED] THE U.S. BOMBING OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG LAST MONTH SHOOK THE POPULATION SEVERELY AND MAY HAVE SHAKEN THE LEADERSHIP OF NORTH VIETNAM. MOST STRIKING, HOWEVER, IS THE ABILITY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO RECUPERATE AND REBUILD QUICKLY. FOR EXAMPLE, DAMAGED ROADS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND TRAFFIC WAS RUNNING WITHIN A WEEK OF THE BOMBING. THE POPULATION OF HANOI HAS SHOWN UNMISTAKABLE SIGNS OF HAVING RECOVERED, EMOTIONALLY AT LEAST. THE NUMBER OF STRAY BOMBS WAS REPORTED TO BE LOW, AND MUCH OF THE BOMBING -- WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS -- WAS ON TARGET.

REPORTS ON TALKS: TASS HAS REPORTED THE RESUMPTION OF YOUR TALKS WITH LE DUC THO IN PARIS NEXT TUESDAY, WITHOUT COMMENT. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION IN PARIS HAS CONFIRMED THIS, BUT SAID THE TALKS WOULD BE HELD "TO COMPLETE THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND REESTABLISHING PEACE IN VIETNAM." THEY USED THE PHRASE "THE AGREEMENT" RATHER THAN ZIEGLER'S "AN AGREEMENT."

SOVIETS AGREE TO MBFR TALKS: A UPI DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW STATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION TODAY FORMALLY AGREED TO JOIN THE WESTERN ALLIES LATER THIS MONTH IN MBFR TALKS. THE SOVIETS CALLED IN NATO AMBASSADORS INDIVIDUALLY TO SAY THEY WOULD ATTEND THE TALKS, WHICH THEY WANT TO BE HELD IN VIENNA AND NOT GENEVA.

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PREPARATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MORE NVA TROOPS ARE TO BE SENT TO THE VIET CONG

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***** WHSR COMMENT *****

INFO COPIES TO: HAK, SCOWCROFT, LORD, HOWE, SEC FILE

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TRI-THIEN-HUE MILITARY REGION FOR USE IN THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE FINAL VICTORY. NVA TROOPS ARE TO FORM THE BULK OF THE VC LOCAL FORCES, WHICH ARE TO BE MOVED BACK INTO THE RURAL AREAS THERE (PRESUMABLY AFTER A CEASE-FIRE). NO SPECIFIC DATE IS MENTIONED. EMPHASIS IS TO BE PLACED ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW MILITARY PHASE -- INCLUDING ASSASSINATION.

U.S. TRADE POLICIES: A REUTER REPORT STATES THAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO HELP MAP OUT U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES AFTER THE WAR. PRESIDENT NIXON INTENDS TO INTEGRATE TRADE AND MONETARY REFORM INTO A BROAD, SWEEPING FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES IN WASHINGTON.

PERU SEIZES TUNABOATS: THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT PERU HAS SEIZED SIX MORE TUNABOATS. RADIO REPORTS FROM THE FLEET STATE THAT ONE MAN FROM EACH SEIZED VESSEL IS BEING TAKEN ABOARD A PATROL BOAT AS A HOSTAGE AND THAT THE DOCUMENTS OF ONE BOAT WERE TAKEN AWAY. STATE IS INVESTIGATING.

SOVIET NAVAL AVIATION SHIP LAUNCHED: DIA REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET NAVAL AVIATION SHIP, WHICH WILL PROBABLY CARRY HELICOPTERS AND RAM-6 VERTICAL/SHORT TAKE-OFF-AND-LANDING AIRCRAFT, HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AT THE NIKOLAYEV SHIPYARD ON THE BLACK SEA AFTER 30 MONTHS ON THE WAY. THIS LAUNCHING WAS SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, AND SEA TRIALS MAY TAKE PLACE IN 1974 IF FITTING OUT IS COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: PRESIDENT THIEU CALLED HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTO AN UNEXPECTED SESSION TODAY AS VIETNAMESE SOURCES REPORTED NEW DIFFICULTIES WITH THE U.S. ON DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTING A CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT. THIEU IS REPORTEDLY SEEKING CHANGES TO ITEMS ON INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF THE CEASE-FIRE AND GUARANTEES FOR THE EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF NVA TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH.

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ACCORDING TO CROSBY NOYES, THE PRESIDENT'S BEHAVIOR OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS BEEN STRANGELY RECLUSIVE. THIS COULD BE RELATED TO THE PEACE TALKS. HOWEVER, HE APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BEEN TALKING TO HIS OWN PEOPLE EITHER. THERE IS A SENSE OF A SUDDEN LOSS OF DIRECTION. EVERYTHING APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME UNGLUED WITH THE BREAKDOWN OF THE VIETNAM TALKS. IN PERMITTING YOU TO MAKE THE PEACE-AT-HAND STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT EXPOSED HIMSELF BEYOND ALL REASON. THE ADMINISTRATION'S STANDING HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED.

RICHARD WILSON WRITES ABOUT THE FACTORS UNDERLYING THE DURABILITY OF PEACE IN INDOCHINA, INCLUDING THE ATTITUDE OF RUSSIA AND CHINA TOWARD THE AMBITIONS OF HANOI'S LEADERS AND THE VALUE HANOI PLACES ON RECONSTRUCTION AID. THE PRESIDENT HAS PERSISTED IN HIS LARGE VIEW THAT A VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE CAN BE MADE THE

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VEHICLE OF A DURABLE, PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP WHICH THE POWERS
WILL HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN PRESERVING.
SECRETARY ROGERS HAS APPEALED FOR A NEW PEACE EFFORT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AND CALLED FOR ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS ON REOPEN-
ING THE SUEZ CANAL AS A FIRST STEP TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.
HE SPOKE AT A DINNER HONORING AMBASSADOR RABIN.
YOUR PICTURE APPEARS IN SECTION D. YOU WERE DEPARTING A PARTY
LAST NIGHT.
BT

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