

CTS-HK-AD38567

No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/11/05 : LOC-HAK-548-2-21-8

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T O P S E C R E T 172307Z AUG 72 SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD
VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

TOHAK 62

FM: SITUATION ROOM

TO: RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

WHS2 135

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS and
ARMY
reviews
completed.

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AUGUST 17, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

VIETNAM MILITARY SITUATION: SINCE OUR LAST SUMMARY, SAIGON
FIELD REPORTS DESCRIBE CONTINUED FIGHTING IN THE UPPER HALF OF
MILITARY REGION 1 AND SPORADIC CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY IN MILI-
TARY REGIONS 3 AND 4.

IN MILITARY REGION 1, TWO ENGAGEMENTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF
QUANG TRI CITY IN THE AIRBORNE AREA OF OPERATIONS HAS LEFT
77 ENEMY DEAD WITH ARVN CASUALTIES REPORTED AS ONE KILLED AND
THREE WOUNDED.

IN MILITARY REGION 2, THERE HAS BEEN NO NEW COMBAT ACTIVITY
REPORTED.

IN MILITARY REGION 3, ARVN INFANTRY ENGAGED THE ENEMY SOUTH
OF AN LOC. TWENTY ENEMY WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED WHILE ARVN
CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. EARLIER, 20 ENEMY WERE KILLED FARTHER
SOUTH ON ROUTE 13 AS THE ARVN 25TH DIVISION CONTINUES ROAD
CLEARING OPERATIONS AGAINST SCATTERED ENEMY RESISTANCE.

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IN MILITARY REGION 4, REGIONAL FORCES, SUPPORTED BY TACAIR
STRIKES, ENGAGED ENEMY FORCES AT MY THO, DINH TUONG PROVINCE.
THIRTY-THREE ENEMY WERE KILLED. FARTHER SOUTH ON THE GULF OF
SIAM, ARVN INFANTRY REPORTEDLY KILLED 21 MORE OF THE ENEMY IN
A FIREFIGHT AT RACH GIA. NO ARVN LOSSES WERE REPORTED.

PARIS TALKS - 155TH PLENARY SESSION: AMBASSADOR PORTER NOTES
THAT THE CURRENT ISSUES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN FOUND
ECHOES IN THE OTHER SIDE'S STATEMENTS TODAY. BOTH BINH AND THUY
TOOK UP THE THEME OF THE "LOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE" DURING
1969 - 72. THE OTHER SIDE OFFERED "PEACE WITH HONOR" FOR THE

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U.S. THROUGH ABANDONMENT OF THIEU AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRG'S SEVEN POINTS. THE COMMUNIST DELEGATION RIDICULED U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, CLAIMING THAT U.S. FORCES ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OFFSHORE EXCEEDED THE U.S. FORCES PULLED OUT OF THE COUNTRY. DIKE-BOMBING AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE BOMBING RECEIVED RELATIVELY SCANT MENTION. BINH ATTEMPTED TO CONTRAST SAIGON'S REPRESSIVE POLICIES WITH THE PRG'S ALLEGED POPULAR SUPPORT AND INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, CITING THE VIET CONG'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE GEORGETOWN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE TO ILLUSTRATE THE LATTER POINT.

PORTER CONCENTRATED ON THE OTHER SIDE'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO ACCEPT THE MAY 8 CEASE-FIRE PROPOSALS AS THE BASIS FOR A SOLUTION. LAM URGED THE PRG TO DISCUSS POLITICAL QUESTIONS WITH THE GVN AND TO END ITS ARMED STRUGGLE.

THESZBXT PLENARY SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE AUGUST 24.

SITUATION IN MOROCCO AND DEATH OF OUFKIR: RABAT IS GENERALLY CALM FOLLOWING THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF KING HASSAN. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF GENERAL OUFKIR ARE STILL UNCLEAR, ALTHOUGH A SENIOR OFFICER IN THE ROYAL MOROCCAN ARMY WITH EXCELLENT ACCESS SAID THAT ACCORDING TO INFORMED WORD FROM THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE MOROCCAN ROYAL ARMED FORCES, OUFKIR WAS IMPLICATED IN THE PLOT AND WAS EXECUTED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. THIS CONTRASTS WITH EARLIER REPORTS THAT HE COMMITTED SUICIDE.

SOVIET PRESS COMMENTS ON PETERSON REPORT: A TASS ITEM ON SECRETARY PETERSON'S REPORT ON U.S.-SOVIET TRADE TALKS CITES ITS EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF MUTUAL ADVANTAGE AND ITS STATEMENT THAT THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WILL LEAD TO IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE ITEM CAREFULLY SELECTS PORTIONS OF THE REPORT WHICH INDICATE THAT THE SOVIET ECONOMY HOLDS GREAT POSSIBILITIES FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE U.S. IT NOTES THE PETERSON STATEMENT THAT CONTROLS ON THE EXPORT OF CERTAIN U.S. GOODS TO THE USSR ARE AN "ANACHRONISM" UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: WILLIAM BUCKLEY ASKS WHY, AFTER HANOI'S MASSIVE INVASION OF SOUTH VIETNAM,

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THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN BOMBING THE DIKES. HE THINKS PRESIDENT THIEU SHOULD GET A COMMITMENT FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO CONTINUE THE BOMBING AS NECESSARY.

THE PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP TO SAIGON, ESPECIALLY ON WHETHER YOU WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THIEU TO STEP DOWN.

MADAME BINH CHARGED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON MISSED A FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO END THE WAR WHEN HE CAME INTO OFFICE BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY JANUARY, 1969 WAS A SIGNIFICANT OCCASION. XUAN THUY SAID THERE WERE OPPORTUNITIES EACH YEAR SINCE THEN, WHICH THE UNITED STATES DELIBERATELY IGNORED.

IN A SERIES OF SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS, SENATOR MCGOVERN AND PIERRE SALINGER TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE LATTER'S TALKS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS OVER THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS. MEMBERS OF THE MCGOVERN STAFF WERE RILED

BY THE SUGGESTION THAT THE SENATOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

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