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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505**

28 October 1968

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** The Honorable Walt W. Rostow ✓  
 Special Assistant to the President

The Honorable Dean Rusk  
 Secretary of State

**SUBJECT:** Views of President Thieu and Vice President  
 Ky on the Proposed Bombing Halt

1. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
 (b)(3)

a. Vice President Ky has kept General Khang informed on the bombing halt talks between the GVN and the American mission. Ky regards as overridingly important obtaining a DRV commitment to negotiate directly with the GVN on ending the war. All other matters at issue, Ky believes, are peripheral and relatively unimportant. Ky is not opposed to an NLF presence in some form at the Paris talks.

b. [REDACTED] last week that the President was concerned over the heavy pressure to which the Americans had subjected him on the bombing halt issue and was angry at them for trying to bluff him. [REDACTED] that Thieu was worried that American aid to the GVN might be cut off if he failed to yield to American wishes. He was also disturbed because the Americans had falsely told other allied leaders that Thieu had agreed to the American bombing halt proposals.

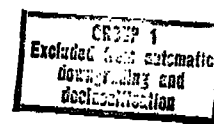
(b)(1)  
 (b)(3)  
 (b)(1)  
 (b)(3)

c. Thieu and his older brother Kieu [REDACTED] for part of the above conversation and Kieu was outspoken in his resentment over American pressure on his brother.

(b)(1)  
 (b)(3)

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2. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED] Kieu said that domestic political considerations had led the Americans to press on Thieu many proposals disadvantageous to SVN. The GVN must resist this pressure until the American elections are held. Kieu said his brother would never concede to the Americans and was prepared to leave the Presidency if the Americans cut off financial aid to the GVN or to die if there was an attempt against his life. Thieu preferred, Kieu said, a respected name in history to living shamelessly like a dog obeying its master's every command.

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