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THE WHITE HOUSE

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Reviewed by: [illegible] 6/25 1975

SECRET/EYES ONLY

February 11, 1970

Dear Elliot:

I have looked over the draft cable on Thai relations with the Soviet Union as you requested and wanted to give you some of my thoughts.

I do not believe that I should clear internal State Department cables. However, the cable does not in my view reflect what the President intended to convey by the Nixon Doctrine. The following comments refer to some specific areas of the cable which might be misleading:

-- Reference, as on pages 3-4, to our revised strategy of supporting a capability for only one major and one minor conflict simultaneously seems immaterial to an assessment of US interests in relation to Thailand. Our capabilities do not determine our interests, and we should not infer that they do.

-- I am not sure of the assumption, on page 5, that preserving "too close a relationship could become a source of increasing frustration." The opposite may also be true.

-- Paragraphs 5 through 9 indicate that it would be advantageous for the Thais to move closer to the Soviets and that we would welcome Soviet entry into Southeast Asia. This is a judgment we are not necessarily ready to make at this time.

-- There also seems to be the suggestion, in paragraph 9, that transition from an era of confrontation to an era of negotiation means that our basic attitude toward the Soviet Union should be modified. This is not consistent with our insistence that the criteria for policy shifts with the Soviets and others are based on specific performance on their part. This is the key to understanding the proposition which states that we have moved to an era of negotiation.

SECRET/EYES ONLY

(Signed) Henry

Henry A. Kissinger

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I hope these suggestions are of some help. My recommendation would be that you not send the cable to Ambassador Enger in the present form.

Warmest regards,

Henry A. Kissinger

Honorable Elliot Richardson
The Under Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.



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