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TELEGRAM

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INDICATE:
☐ COLLECT
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DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON

STATE _____

EXDIS

Subject: New GVN Charge's Interest in Refugee Negotiations

Please repeat Bangkok's 15109 to abovex addressee.

END

ROGERS

DRAFTED BY:	DRAFTING DATE	TEL. EXT.	APPROVED BY:
EA/TB:AEBergesen:fm	12/18/70	21741	EA - Mr. Wilson

CLEARANCES:

S/S-O:MR. ~~BRINS~~ Ruggert

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FILE

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

SECRET 384

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:AEBERGESEN
APPROVED BY EA-MR. WILSON
S/S-O:MR. RUECKERT
---------- 104020

R 190529Z DEC 70
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T STATE 206496

EXDIS

SUBJ: NEW GVN CHARGE'S INTEREST IN REFUGEE NEGOTIATIONS

FOL SENT ACTION PRIORITY SECSTATE FROM BANGKOK.

QUOTE: S E C R E T BANGKOK 15109, DEC 01, 1970.

EXDIS

1. FOLLOWING IS GIST OF CABLE TRANSMITTED TO WELLINGTON BY NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY WHICH MAY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT BUT WHICH IS IN ANY CASE FORWARDED FOR THE RECORD.

2. NEW ZEALANDERS WERE INFORMED NOVEMBER 25 BY CHIEF OF MFA SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION (PROTECT) THAT THAIS HAVE HAD TWO OR THREE DISCUSSIONS ON POLITICAL MATTERS WITH LEADER OF NVN DELEGATION VU HOANG AND HIS DEPUTY. (NEW ZEALANDERS UNDERSTAND TALKS WERE WITH MFA OFFICIALS ONLY AND DID NOT INCLUDE THAI TEAM LEADER LUANG CHART).

3. VU HOANG SAID NVN WAS ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THAILAND AND THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE "OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF THE CONFLICT IN INDOCHINA." HE SPOKE OF POSSIBLE INCREASED TRADE, INCLUDING PROSPECT OF NVN PURCHASE OF THAI MAIZE AND OTHER COMMODITIES. SEA CHIEF SAID HE IN REPLY POINTED OUT US FORCES

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IN THAILAND BEING REDUCED, THAI TROOPS HAD NOT BEEN SENT INTO CAMBODIA, AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE TO BE HELD WITH GVN ON WITHDRAWAL OF THAI FORCES. HE ADDED NORTH VIETNAMESE SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN JUST WHEN THAI FORCES WOULD LEAVE SVN AND AMERICAN FORCES WOULD LEAVE THAILAND. SEA CHIEF ASKED DRV REP WHEN DRV PROPOSED TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM SVN, LAOS AND CAMBODIA AND WHETHER IT WAS CONDUCIVE TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES FOR DRV TO BE SUPPORTING SUBVERSION IN THAILAND. DRV REP SAID THEY NOT TRYING TO EXPORT REVOLUTION, BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON OTHER ASPECTS EXCEPT FOR PUTTING FORTH CLAIM NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM ONE COUNTRY AND DRV DOING NOTHING MORE THAN HELPING THEIR BROTHERS. (HE DID NOT OPENLY ADMIT PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN SVN).

4. SEA CHIEF SAID DRV REPS HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO AVOID PROBLEMS IN REPATRIATION TALKS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO DRV MANPOWER NEEDS BUT ALSO TO DRV INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ATMOSPHERE FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE NOW REGARDS AS MAIN ITEM OF BUSINESS.

5. SEA CHIEF SAID THAT WHEN VU HOANG RETURNS, HE MAY MEET WITH FONMIN THANAT. LATTER IS REPORTED TO BE RATHER SKEPTICAL THAT MUCH ADVANTAGE TO THAILAND WILL COME FROM PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY FROM NEW ZEALANDERS, SEA CHIEF SAID RTG/PRC RELATIONSHIPS HAD ALSO COME UP. VU HOANG SAID DRV ALWAYS FOUND CHINESE READY TO LISTEN TO THEIR FRIENDS. SAID CHINA WAS NOT AGGRESSIVE AND POINTED TO PEKING'S RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN--A MEMBER OF THE WESTERN CAMP--AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CANADA AND ITALY AS EVIDENCE. SEA CHIEF SAID THAILAND FOR SOME TIME HAD INDICATED A READINESS TO TALK WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, BUT HAD HAD NO RESPONSE. HE ASKED WHETHER DRV, WHICH ENJOYED CLOSE CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, COULD SAY WHETHER PEKING WAS INTERESTED IN A DIALOGUE. ACCORDING TO SEA CHIEF, VU HOANG UNDERTOOK THAT DRV WOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH CHINESE IF A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY AROSE.

7. SEA CHIEF ALSO TOLD NEW ZEALANDERS THAT DRV TEAM HAD EXPRESSED EXASPERATION ABOUT EFFORTS OF GROUP OF WIVES OF AMERICAN POWS TO OBTAIN AN INTERVIEW. THEY CLAIMED AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE LIVING BETTER THAN A GREAT MANY NORTH VIETNAMESE.

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8. COMMENT. WHILE WE WERE ADVISED OVER WEEKEND BY MFA OFFICER THAT DRV TEAM HAD RAISED QUESTION OF DESIRABILITY OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND NORTH VIETNAM OUTSIDE OF FORMAL SESSIONS, ABOVE REPORT CONTAINS CONSIDERABLY MORE DETAIL THAN WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY RTG SO FAR.

9. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.
GP-2.
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P 010426Z DEC 70
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0568

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15105

IN WEEKEND CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION CHIEF OF MFA (KOSOL) STATED THAT DRV RED CROSS TEAM HAD, OUTSIDE OF FORMAL SESSIONS RAISED DESIRABILITY OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN RTG AND DRV. ACCORDING TO KOSOL, THAI TEAM TOOK POSITION DRV SHOULD EXHIBIT SOME CONCRETE MANIFESTATION OF ITS DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS. KOSOL MENTIONED INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST THAILAND AS ONE APPROPRIATE AREA IN WHICH HANOI COULD MAKE SOME MAIFESTATION. HE INDICATED THAT THAILAND HAD MADE ITS DEMONSTRATION IN ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM VIETNAM AND IN NOT SENDING TROOPS INTO CAMBODIA AND WAS NOW AWAITING RECIPROCAL DEMONSTRATION ON PART OF DRV.

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 569

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15109

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4. SEA CHIEF SAID DRV REPS HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO AVOID PROBLEMS IN REPATRIATION TALKS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO DRV MANPOWER NEEDS BUT ALSO TO DRV INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ATMOSPHERE FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE NOW REGARDS AS MAIN ITEM OF BUSINESS.

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DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9905
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S E C R E T BANGKOK 13774

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 3.)

DEPT PASS PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND USDEL: SUGGEST ALSO PASS ADDRESSEES REFTEL

REF: STATE 178457

1. FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT HAS TOLD ME SOME THINGS WHICH PERHAPS HAVE SOME BEARING ON DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST EXPRESSED REFTEL. HE MENTIONED THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS THE FRENCH PROPOSED THAT HE MEET WITH XUAN THUY. THANAT TOLD ME HE TURNED THIS DOWN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE MANY AVENUES FOR PASSING ON ANY PROPOSALS THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE AND THAT WHILE HE WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO TALK TO THEM, HE DID NOT THINK IT WAS ADVISABLE FOR HIM TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE. NOTHING SAID BY THANAT SUGGESTED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD STIMULATED THIS INITIATIVE BY THE FRENCH. WHEN I OBSERVED TO THANAT THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE RED CROSS DELEGATION HERE WAS PROCEEDING IN A VERY LEISURELY MANNER AND WONDERED WHETHER THEY HAD OTHER PURPOSES AND WHETHER HE EXPECTED TO SEE THEM, HE REPLIED IN A SAME VEIN, SAYING THAT HE WAS LEAVING ANY INITIATIVE UP TO THEM. THANAT FELT THAT OTHERWISE THEY WOULD ASSUME THAT HE HAD BEEN PUT UP BY US TO ANY INITIATIVE HE MIGHT TAKE. WHETHER OR NOT IT HAS ANY SIGNIFICANCE, THANAT DID SEEM TO FEEL THAT BEFORE THEY WIND UP THEIR TALKS THERE

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AND LEAVE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY TAKE SOME INITIATIVE BEYOND THE REFUGEE BUSINESS AT HAND. (SEE SEPTEL ON THIS SUBJECT.)

2. DEPARTING SWEDISH AMB LEWENHAUPT TOLD ME A FEW DAYS AGO THAT HE WAS INVITED TO DINNER BY THE SOVIET AMB FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE HANOI VISITORS ARE CIRCULATING AT LEAST IN A LIMITED WAY ON THE SOCIAL SCENE. WE MAY FIND A WAY TO TAKE FURTHER READINGS THROUGH SUCH CONTACTS, IN WHICH HOWEVER IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

3. FRENCH AMB LESCOT CALLED THIS MORNING, HAVING RETURNED FROM HIS HONEYMOON WHICH INCLUDED VISIT TO PARIS AND CONSULTATIONS AT THE QUAI. HE PROFESSED TO HAVE DETECTED NO INDICATIONS THERE OF ANY GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN HANOI'S POSITION. LESCOT DID MENTION HAVING JUST HAD A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH COUVE AT BANGKOK AIRPORT IN THE COURSE OF THE LATTER'S RETURN TRIP FROM PEKING TO PARIS. INTERESTING COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO COUVE WAS THAT THE CHINESE ARE NERVOUS ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM'S EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS IN INDOCHINA. THE CHINESE WANT TO KEEP NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM DIVIDED AND KEEP A LAOS AND CAMBODIA WITH SEPARATE IDENTITIES. LESCOT ATTRIBUTED TO COUVE EVEN THE ADDITIONAL COMMENT THAT THE CHINESE ARE NOT THAT CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT KIND OF REGIME THERE WOULD BE IN EACH OF THE COMPONENT PARTS OF INDOCHINA AS LONG AS THEY ALL ADHERED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. WHEN I SAID THAT IF THIS WERE THE CHINESE VIEW, WHY DIDN'T THE CHINESE PRESS HANOI TO NEGOTIATE SINCE THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF KEEPING ITS EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS IN CHECK, LESCOT ANSWERED ONLY THAT THE CHINESE ALSO HAVE THE PARALLEL OBJECTIVE OF KEEPING THE US MIRED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ACCORDING TO LESCOT, COUVE SAW SIHANOUK BUT LESCOT DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET A READING ON WHAT MAY HAVE PASSED BETWEEN THEM. GP-3.
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NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ANY ADDRESSEES.

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