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Mandatory Review
Case # NLJ02-201
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21 December 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: President Thieu's Angry Reaction to Statements
Made by U. S. Secretary of Defense Clifford

Lieutenant Colonel Tran Van Lam, Press Officer for President Nguyen Van Thieu, on 19 December 1968, described Thieu's reaction to U. S. Secretary of Defense Clifford's statements on 15 December and other earlier statements as one of shock and anger. Lam said that Thieu is unable to determine the logic of public statements made by senior U. S. officials which contribute to efforts by the North Vietnamese and the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam to split the U. S. and the Government of Vietnam (GVN). Lam said that Thieu discussed with him how the GVN might respond to Secretary Clifford's statements. Lam said that he advised Thieu to make no public recognition of Clifford's remarks and that Thieu accepted his advice. Thieu also said he would not discipline any GVN official who makes statements emphasizing the GVN's sovereignty and its determination to approach the question of representation at the Paris Talks on the basis of the our side - your side formula.

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