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FM THE WHITE HOUSE

PARIS

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UNCLAS WH29802

TOHAK 30

NEWS SUMMARY

DECEMBER 5, 1972

(MONDAY NETS, WIRES, MAGS)

THE MAJOR STORIES OF THE DAY:

- TWO HAK-THO SESSIONS LED ALL NETS, WHICH HAD FILM OF WAVES AND SMILES FROM BOTH SIDES, ALONG W/"ALMOST" BLACK CAT THAT ALMOST STOLE THE SHOW AS IT MADE ITSELF AT HOME ON HAK'S CAR DURING SESSIONS. NBC NOTED SPECULATION THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE OR FULL NEGOTIATING TEAMS WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT 2ND SESSION.... OTHER NETS ALSO NOTED WIDESPREAD EXPECTATIONS AND OPTIMISM THAT THIS WILL BE THE FINAL WEEK OF TALKS.... ABC'S GILL TOLD OF THE "PERSONAL AND VERY CLOSE CONTROL" THAT RN HAS TAKEN OVER THE TALKS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

- NBC FILM AS SVN'S LAM INSISTED SVN WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN WRITTEN AGREEMENT OF A TOTAL NVA WITHDRAWAL FROM SVN, THO DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT LATER. IN WHAT REPORTER SAID WAS 1ST PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THIS ASPECT OF SECRET TALKS, LAM SAID HAK HAD OFFERED NVN SEVERAL FORMULAS FOR WITHDRAWAL BUT ALL HAD BEEN REJECTED BY HANOI. LAM'S REMARKS DIDN'T SOUND LIKE SVN'S SOFTENING ON DEMANDS. SAID REPORTER.

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- ALL No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/09 : LOC-HAK-247-9-18-9  
RELATION THAT MOVE WAS TO HELP HIM FOR POTENTIAL RACE FOR  
ADLAI III'S SEAT IN '74.

- ALL NETS NOTED LAIRD SAID DOD'S FY '74 BUDGET WILL TOP  
\$80 B, \$4 B OVER '73, W/MOST INCREASES DUE TO PERSONNEL. LAIRD,  
ON NBC, SAID HE WILL EXPLAIN TO NATO THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR  
UNILATERAL CUTS IN LIGHT OF MBFR TALKS. NOW IS THE TIME TO BE  
STRONG AND SHOW COMMITMENT TO NATO, SAID LAIRD.

- ALLENDE ON CBS/ABC FILM ISSUING SHARP BLAST FROM UN AT  
MULTINATIONALS, ESPECIALLY ITT FOR IMPERIALISM AND AGGRESSION  
AGAINST CHILE.

- ABC REPORT ON THE "UNUSUAL TURNABOUT" AS IRA IN IRELAND ARE  
FLEEING NORTH AS THE "TERROR HAS FINALLY COME HOME TO THE SOUTH."  
REPORT EMPHASIZED LACK OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR IRA IN IRISH REPUB-  
LIC AND THE IRONIC FACT THAT IRA-FOUNDER DE VALERA SIGNED THE  
CRACKDOWN MEASURE. ABC SAID IRISH REPUBLIC MAY LOOK BACK W/FOND  
NOSTALGIA ON IRA BUT IT WANTS PEACE AND QUIET NOW, NOT THE VIOLENCE  
BROUGHT BY IRA. ON FILM CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN SAID IRA CAN  
SURVIVE ONLY DUE TO FOREIGN SUPPORT.

- HK SMITH COMMENTED ON THE INCREASED TREND TO A "COMITY"  
AMONG NATIONS.

- NBC/CBS FILM OF GOP GOVERNORS CONFERENCE. CLOSED DOOR  
SESSION W/VP AGNEW WAS CALLED "FRIENDLY AND NON-POLITICAL" BY  
GOVERNORS, IN COMPARISON TO POST-'70 ELECTION SESSION WHEN  
THE VEEP WAS CRITICIZED BY SOME GOVERNORS. NBC FOCUSED ON GOP  
DISCONTENT W/WH-1701 WHILE CBS FOUND PARTY LEADERS CONSIDERABLY  
HAPPIER THAN OTHE REPORTS HAVE INDICATED.

NESSON NOTING JDE AND OTHER WH AIDES REFUSED TO TESTIFY ON GROUNDS OF EXEC. PRIVILEGE, SO WHOLE STORY OF HANDLING MAY NEVER BE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. LOESCH, ON NBC, DENIED DECISION NOT TO USE FORCE WAS WH ONE, SAYING IT WAS ADMIN. DECISION ABOUT WHICH MORTON WAS ADVISED AND CONCURRED WITH. MORTON EMPHASIZED THAT THO THERE WAS DISORDER, THERE WASN'T ANY BLOODSHED. ABC SAID DECISION TO SACRIFICE BUILDING AND AVOID MASSACRE WAS APPROVED BY RN.

- SCHORR, AT WATERGATE PRE-TRIAL, SAID DEFENSE SEEMED TRYING TO MINIMIZE PUBLICITY, BUT JUDGE SIRICA DENIED MANY MOTIONS. HE WILL SUBPEONA UNPUBLISHED PORTIONS OF LA TIMES INTERVIEW W/BALDWIN BUT PAPER SAYS IT'LL NOT PROVIDE THEM. "BIG SURPRISE" IS THAT PROSECUTION WILL ATTEMPT TO TRACE \$114,000 IN RN CAMPAIGN FUNDS THAT ENDED UP IN BARKER'S ACCOUNT -- A MOVE THAT EXPANDS SCOPE OF CASE FROM JUST WATERGATE TO QUESTIONS RE: PAYMASTERS AND/OR INVOLVEMENT OF "HIGHER-UPS."

- NBC/CBS FILM BACKGROUNDERS ON APOLLO 17 W/ ALL GOING WELL FOR "SPECTACULAR" FOR WED. NIGHT LAUNCH.

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TOP STORY OF THE DAY, LED CHANCELLOR IS "WHAT COULD BE LAST ROUND OF TALKS BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE." NOTING COMPARISON OF STAFF COMPLIMENTS AT MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS AND STRICTLY HELD NEWS BLACKOUT, CHANCELLOR SAID FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, ALL WERE SMILING AT THE END, AND SPECULATION IN US AND SVN IS THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BEFORE XMAS.

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SECTION TWO OF EIGHT

TOHAK 30

NBC'S DOBYNS, NOTING THERE WAS NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF A. M. SESSION BUT THAT PRESS WAS WAITING FOR HAK, SAID HAK WAS "STILL IN A GOOD MOOD" AS HE ARRIVED. HAK, ON FILM, LIGHTLY SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS TO BE A PRIVATE SESSION. MEETINGS WERE PRIVATE, SAID DOBYNS, W/A. M. SESSION APPARENTLY TO EXCHANGE INFO FROM RECESS. WHATEVER WAS DISCUSSED WAS KEPT TO NEGOTIATORS, SAID DOBYNS, BUT ALL WERE SMILING AND WAVING THO NO ONE WOULD SAY ANYTHING AND THUY WAVED OFF QUESTIONS. NOTING FULL STAFF COMPLEMENT AT AFTERNOON SESSION, DOBYNS NOTED THIS RAISED SPECULATION PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE, AND DOBYNS HILIGHTED OTHER UNCONFIRMED SPECULATIONS: 1) THAT RN WANTS SOME POWS HOME BY XMAS AND THO HAS AGREED, AND 2) THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE INITIALED BY MID-DEC. AND SIGNED ABOUT 5 DAYS LATER. NOTING TOTAL HOURS HAK-THO HAVE TALKED SINCE NOV. 29, DOBYNS SAID NO ONE KNOWS IF ANYTHING HAS BEEN SETTLED BUT US MOOD OVER LAST WEEK HAS BEEN "DETERMINEDLY OPTIMISTIC"... CHANCELLOR NOTED LIKELIHOOD OF INFORMAL CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN INITIALING AND SIGNING.

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BY HORDE OF REPORTERS AND "CROSSED BY A BLACK CAT," KALISCHER,  
OVER FILM, NOTED DAY BEGAN AT 2 A.M. W/HAK WALK W/HAIG AND  
SULLIVAN. TALKS HOPEFULLY WILL BRING AGREEMENT BEFORE XMAS,  
SAID KALISCHER, NOTING THE CAT WAS 1ST INCIDENT SINCE THE  
MEDIA'S DISCOVERY OF SECRET TALK LOCATION TO CAUSE HAK TO  
REGISTER SURPRISE. KALISCHER SAW WAVES AND SMILES AS OTHER VIS-  
IBLE INDICATORS THINGS WERE GOING GOOD, BUT SAID HE WASN'T SURE  
IF IT WAS THE CAT OR PRESS THE "JINXED" THE A.M. SITE, AS  
TALKS MOVED TO NEW -- PLUSHEST SITE YET -- IN AFTERNOON.  
KALISCHER, IN CONTRAST TO NBC, SAID HAK AND THO WEREN'T SMILING  
AT END OF 2ND SESSION.

WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT TALKS COULD BE SUCCESSFUL, SAID  
ABC'S ROLFSON BUT NO REAL INDICATION BY EITHER SIDE EXCEPT  
FOR DISPLAYS OF GOOD HUMOR. CLIP OF HAK AS HE JOKED W/PRESS  
OVER FINDING THE "SECRET" SITE. BIG SMILES ALSO FROM NVN,  
SAID ROLFSON, BUT THOSE ARE UNRELIABLE INDICATOR AS THE  
NEGOTIATORS HAVE SMILED EVEN WHEN THINGS HAVE GONE BADLY.  
NOTE OF 100 MPH DRIVE BACK TO HOTEL FOLLOWING PM SESSION  
IN THE "PASTORAL SCENE."

ABC'S GILL SAID RN IS, IN EFFECT, IN "REMOTE CONTROL" OF  
TALKS. NOTE OF CABLES BACK AND FORTH AFTER 1ST MON.  
SESSION. RN WILL CONTINUE TO DECIDE EVEN THE NUANCES, SAID GILL  
WHO NOTED THAT A CENTRAL AIM OF THIS NEW AND CLOSER RN-HAK  
CONTACT WAS TO DISPEL REPORTS OF ANY DIVISION BETWEEN THE 2  
OVER TERMS. TALKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTERRUPTED AS MUCH AS  
NECESSARY, SAID GILL TO ALLOW RN-HAK CONTACTS. BUT RN WILL  
NOT ALLOW ANY RIFT TO INTERRUPT HIS EFFORTS TO HAVE A FINAL  
ACCORD BY DEC. 15. CLIP OF RN CHOPPER LEAVING KB W/GILL NOTING  
CONTACT W/HAK REMAINS POSSIBLE WHILE IN AIR....UPI SAYS INDICATION  
OF THE SENSITIVE STAGE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WAS REPORT THAT RN  
WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH W/HAK....AND AP SAYS THO THERE HAS  
BEEN TALK HAK MAY HAVE OVERPLAYED HIS HAND AS RN'S NO. 1  
NEGOTIATOR, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN FROM WH THAT HAK HAS LOST ANY  
DEGREE OF FAVOR W/RN.

ASKED FOR DETAILS ON THE TALKS. GUN'S LAM SAID HE HAD BEEN  
No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/09 : LOC-HAK-247-9-18-9

BRIEFED BY THE US, "BUT CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS IN THIS FINAL  
STAGE," USING "FINAL" FOR THE FIRST TIME, NOTED UPI.... NOTING  
LAM'S COMMENTS ON BRIEFING, CBS SAID LAM SAID HE WAS TOLD  
NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN FINAL STAGE.

LAM THOUGHT A TREATY MIGHT BE SIGNED SOON, BUT ADDED "WE  
CANNOT SAY IF IT WILL BE THIS WEEK OR LATER."... IN ADDITION  
TO REPORTING LAM'S STATEMENTS RE: SVN'S DEMANDS FOR WRITTEN  
AGREEMENT ON NVA WITHDRAWAL, NBC'S KAPLAN SAID LAM STATED GVN  
IS EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER COUNCIL, WHICH LAM SAID NVN IS TRYING  
TO TURN INTO REAL GOV'T OF SVN. LAM SAID THIS IS COMPLETELY  
OUT OF THE QUESTION. NOTING REPORTS SUGGESTED SVN WAS SOFTENING,  
KAPLAN SAID NOTHING LAM SAID INDICATED THAT, NOR DID  
LAM SOUND LIKE A MAN REPRESENTING A GOVT. THAT WAS PREPARED TO  
BOW TO AN AGREEMENT IT DOESN'T APPROVE OF.... CHANCELLOR NOTED  
THAT DESPITE SVN'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS, US OFFICIALS VIEW THE  
TALKS AS STILL ON THE TRACK AND SEE AGREEMENT NEAR. THO SOME  
DISPUTE SPECULATIVE TIMETABLES, IT'S HARD TO FIND A  
KNOWLEDGEABLE US OFFICIAL WHO DOESN'T THINK AT LAST WE'RE  
CLOSE TO A CEASE-FIRE, SAID CHANCELLOR.

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TIN SONG AND 5 OTHER SAIGON DAILIES PRINTED NEARLY IDENTICAL STORIES QUOTING "HI-RANKING GVN SOURCES" AS SAYING IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A CEASE-FIRE SIGNING ON OR ABOUT DEC. 15. THEY SAID FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT ARE "COMPLETELY FALSE" AND "RIDICULOUS AND FABRICATED TO FOOL PUBLIC OPINION." THE PAPERS ACCUSED THE TIMES AND LE MONDE OF INITIATING A CAMPAIGN "AIMED AT CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF FALSE OPTIMISM," AND QUOTED LAM AS SAYING "THE US WILL NEVER SIGN ANY SEPARATE AGREEMENT OVER SAIGON'S OBJECTIONS. "I DON'T BELIEVE RN WOULD WANT OR REQUIRE SUCH A THING," SAID LAM.

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PERCY TOLD LAM IF GVN REFUSES TO SIGN A TREATY THAT US AID COULD BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY, THE CHIC. NEWS SAYS. PERCY SAID HE WASN'T ACTING ON RN'S BEHALF.

DELLINGER SAID NVN TOLD HIM POWS MAY RECEIVE XMAS PRESENTS AND CARDS AGAIN, "LEADING TO VERY SAD CONFIRMATION THAT THE POWS WILL STILL BE IN HANOI" AT XMAS. DELLINGER HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS THE ADMIN. IS CARRYING OUT ITS PLEDGE TO END WAR AND HE ANNOUNCED NATL. "SIGN THE AGREEMENT NOW" CAMPAIGN. IF THE ACCORD ISN'T SIGNED BY XMAS, "THERE WILL BE VIGILS AND PROTESTS ALL OVER US ON XMAS WEEK," AND IF ACCORD ISN'T SIGNED BY JAN. 20, THERE WILL BE PROTESTS AT THE INAUGURATION. DELLINGER SAID THAT SINCE HAK'S "PEACE IS AT HAND" REMARK, THE ADMIN HAS BEEN "SITTING ON A VOLCANO."

TIME NOTES ALL THE REPORTS THAT TALKS HAD REACHED DEAD-END,  
No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/09 : LOC-HAK-247-9-18-9  
W/ ORIGINAL AGREEMENTS, IN EFFECT, BEING TORN UP AND THIEU ABOUT  
TO BLOW UP ANY AGREEMENT HE DIDN'T LIKE--" SO WENT THE OMINOUS  
REPORTS AS ANOTHER LULL IN THE BATTLE FOR PEACE INSPIRED NERVOUS  
SPECULATION. IN FACT, THE SITUATION WAS NOT AT ALL THAT SOUR."  
AND THERE WERE SOUND REASONS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM, ADDS TIME,  
NOTING SOME S. VIETS DESCRIBE HAK AS "THE KING WHO TRAVELS AT  
NIGHT" IN TRIBUTE TO HIS TIRELESS COMINGS AND GOINGS.

TIME SAYS THE WH EXPECTS THIEU TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT, ADDING  
RN REFUSED TO MEET W/THIEU BECAUSE THAT WOULD MAKE THIEU LOOK  
LIKE A US PUPPET OR THAT HE WAS PUSHING RN INTO A TOUGHER STANCE.  
THUS THE ONLY RN-THIEU MEETING CONTEMPLATED WOULD BE AS A FINAL  
GESTURE OF COOPERATION AFTER THE AGREEMENT OUTLINE IS FIRMED UP.  
TIME SAYS HAK WILL BE PRESSING TO MAKE UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING  
RE: NVA W/DRAWAL MORE EXPLICIT. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS WHETHER THIEU  
WILL RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS.

THIEU APPARENTLY WILL HAVE TO SIGN OR LET US SIGN W/OUT HIM,  
SAYS TIME, BECAUSE HE'S BEEN WARNED THE DEM HILL ISN'T LIKELY TO  
VOTE ANY MORE FUNDS FOR GVN IF HE HOLDS OUT. MAG ALSO REPORTS  
ALREADY THERE IS SURPRISINGLY STRONG FEELING AMONG MANY POLITICOS  
AND INTELLECTUALS IN SAIGON THAT CEASE-FIRE IS IMMINENT AND THAT  
THIEU'S POSITION IS HOPELESS. YET, SVN PEASANTS AREN'T SO SURE  
THE YEARS OF FIGHTING WILL EVER END. ONE SAYS: "PEACE? A CEASE-  
FIRE? LOOK AT OUR HOUSE. (BOMBED BY ARVN) THIS IS PEACE?" WHILE  
ANOTHER BELIEVES, "BOTH SIDES WILL JUST KEEP FIGHTING WHILE THE  
PEOPLE STAY IN THE MIDDLE. THEY TELL US TO PUT UP FLAGS. WE PUT  
UP FLAGS. THEY TELL US TO MOVE, WE MOVE."



~~THE~~ No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/09 : LOC-HAK-247-9-18-9  
NEWSWEEK STORY WHICH SAYS HAK REALIZED PEACE WAS NOT AS CLOSE AS HE HAD THOUGHT BEFORE HE FOUND THAT THIEU WOULDN'T BUDGE. YET, SAYS MAG, THERE ARE SIGNS THIEU HAS CHANGED COURSE AND IS RELUCTANTLY CLIMBING ABOARD. "EMBARRASSED" BY HAK'S PREMATURE STATEMENT, THE WH WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE OPTIMISM, BUT HOPEFUL HINTS WEREN'T COMING FROM THE US SIDE ALONG, SAYS NEWSWEEK NOTING THAT ALTHO THEY DENOUNCED US FOR DELAY, COMMUNISTS DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE THEIR HEART IN IT.

GVN, THINKING THERE WAS A SPLIT BETWEEN RN AND HAK, SEND DUC TO MEET W/RN PRIVATELY, BUT THE PLOY FAILED W/HAK SITTING IN. THEIR MARATHON TALKS SUGGESTED STUDY OF AGREEMENT POINT BY POINT -- AND THAT SVN HAD FINALLY ACCEPTED "REALITIES," SAYS NEWSWEEK. STILL, IT WON SOME POINTS BY FORCING ADMIN TO TAKE A 2ND LOOK. THE US GOT SOME "CLARIFICATIONS" FAVORABLE TO GVN AS HAK APPARENTLY FIRMED UP LANGUAGE ON NVA W/DRAWALS; GOT HANOI TO RESPECT THE DMZ, AND CLARIFIED DUTIES OF SUPERVISORY FORCES.

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ALL THIS BROUGHT PEACE CLOSER THAN EVER BEFORE, SAYS NEWSWEEK, BUT EVEN IF HAK AND THO COME TO AGREEMENT NOW, THE TALKS SEEM LIKELY TO END ON A MUTED NOTE -- W/NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT, CEREMONY OR PUBLISHED TEXT. AND SOME WH AIDES BELIEVE RN MAY YET HAVE TO MEET W/THIEU TO GET HIM TO SIGN. EVEN AT THAT, THE DANGER THIEU MIGHT DECIDE TO MAKE A LAST-DITCH STAND CAN'T BE IGNORED, BUT AN ADMIN. AIDE SAYS THIEU COULD TRY TO LOUSE THINGS UP, "BUT WE THINK HE KNOWS THAT WOULD BE SUICIDAL."

HAWKS " HAVE BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT RN'S DECISION TO ALTER THE DISASTROUS" HAK-THO ACCORD, SAYS HUMAN EVENTS. SVN STILL ISN'T SATISFIED BUT THE ACCORD HAS BEEN " VASTLY IMPROVED." THE BEECHER STORY ON NVN CONCESSIONS IS USED TO BUTTRESS HE'S ARGUMENT.... THE WEEKLY ALSO GOES AFTER HAK AGAIN -- "THE BLOOM IS OFF THE HAK ROSE" -- AS IT QUOTES AT LENGTH FROM NOYES TO INDICATE CRITICISM OF HAK FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

NEWSWEEK SAYS FOR 1ST TIME IN YEARS, MANY S. VIETS BELIEVE FIGHTING IS ABOUT OVER. "A KIND OF PEACE FEVER" HAS SWEEP SVN AND NEITHER INTERRUPTIONS IN THE TALKS NOR THE HAGGLING SEEM LIKELY TO DESTROY BELIEF THAT PEACE IS AT HAND. NVA VC MESSAGE HAS BEEN THE SAME --DESPITE GVN INTRANSIGENCE, PEACE IS INEVITABLE-- AND THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT COMMUNISTS ARE MAKING THEIR POINT. MANY PEASANTS ARE PREPARING TO RETURN TO ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS.

ALTHO MUCH OF THE BITTERNESS SEEMS LIKELY TO FADE AWAY. WHAT PROBABLY WON'T FADE IS THE STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VILLAGERS AND COMMUNISTS. GVN EFFORTS TO ENLIST PUBLIC FOR A POLITICAL BATTLE FAIL TO PENETRATE EARS WHICH LISTEN ONLY FOR SOUNDS OF PEACE. "THE UPSHOT IS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE GAINED AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL EDGE -- AN EDGE THEY MAY BE ABLE TO TRANSLATE INTO QUICK AND SIGNIFICANT INROADS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WHEN THE GUNS FALL SILENT," NEWSWEEK SAYS.... ABC NOTED COMMUNISTS CALLED ON S VIETS TO STEP UP PRESSURE FOR SIGNING AND THEY TOLD OWN CADRES TO PREPARE TO FIGHT ON IF TALKS BREAK DOWN.

THAI LEADER THANOM SAID US WILL KEEP GIS AND PLANES THERE AFTER CEASE-FIRE IN CASE NVN VIOLATES IT. "A VIOLATION.... ALSO IN NEWSWEEK SAYS THE DEAL IS GOOD, SO LONG AS COMMUNISTS DON'T CHEAT. BUT ONCE IT'S MADE, THEY'LL HAVE PLENTY OF REASONS, OR EXCUSES. THE CEASE-FIRE IS SURE TO BE BROKEN. THE ELECTION WILL EITHER NOT TAKE PLACE OR BE DENOUNCED AS A FARCE. SVN ISN'T LIKELY TO GREE VC POWS AND NVN CAN USE THIS FAILURE AS REASON FOR WELSHING ON THE KEY SETTLEMENT PROVISION THAT "ALL FOREIGN TROOPS" MUST BE W/DRAWN FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA. ALSO SAYS THAT PROVISION MAKES THE DEAL A GOOD DEAL. IF NVA DOES W/DRAW, IT'LL MEAN IT HAS ABANDONED, FOR TIME BEING, THE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A COMMUNIST REGIME BY FORCE. FACT NVN AGREED, EVEN ON PAPER, TO SO W/DRAW IS PART OF EVIDENCE THAT A BASIC NVN CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE. ANOTHER IS THEIR INTENSE INTEREST IN US ECONOMIC AID. IF NVN CHEATS, ON THE SETTLEMENT SAYS ALSO, THE AID CAN BE CUT OFF, AND IF THEY CHEAT TOO FLAGRANTLY, BOMBING CAN BE RESUMED. THESE ARE REASONS ALSO HOPES SETTLEMENT WILL RESULT IN PEACE.

BUT I. No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/09 : LOC-HAK-247-9-18-9

CAMBODIA. EVEN IF THEY ARE, PEACE IS SURE TO BE MESSY AND INTER-  
MITTENTLY BLOODY, BUT IT WILL BE PEACE OF A SORT ALL THE SAME.  
BUT A NAGGING DOUBT REMAINS, SAYS ALSOP, NOTING THE '54 AND  
'62 SETTLEMENTS CAME APART AT THE SEAMS, AND IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE  
THE SAME SORT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN AS SOON AS US IS GONE. AND HE IS  
PESSIMISTIC--HARD TO BELIEVE NVN WILL W/DRAW FROM LAOS AND  
CAMBODIA. "IT IS (ALSOP'S) INSTINCT THEY WILL NOT W/DRAW MORE  
THAN TOKEN FORCES...THEY WILL NOT ABANDON, EVEN TEMPORARILY,  
THEIR CHERISHED GOAL OF RENAMING SAIGON HO CHI MINH CITY, AND  
THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL BY ALL MEANS  
SHORT OF OVERT, MAIN-FORCE INVASION."

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