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CITE: WHS2113

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AUGUST 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

CARROLL KILPATRICK WRITES THAT YOU FLEW FROM SWITZERLAND TO SAIGON LAST NIGHT FOR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT THIEU. EN ROUTE HOME YOU ARE EXPECTED TO STOP IN TOKYO TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR THE AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING IN HAWAII BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND PREMIER TANAKA. KILPATRICK SAYS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION WHETHER A PEACE BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED; ONLY THAT, ACCORDING TO RON ZIEGLER, "WE ARE IN A SENSITIVE TIME NOW, AND IT IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, NOR INDEED, WOULD IT BE WORTHWHILE TO SPECULATE OR CHARACTERIZE IN ANY WAY THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE." (A-1, 15)

PRESIDENT THIEU TO GET PAST THE NOVEMBER ELECTION IN THE U.S. WITHOUT JEOPARDY, AS HE DID IN 1968. THIEU'S OBJECTIVES ARE TWOFOLD: TO AVOID NEGOTIATING COMPROMISES BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE ITS OWN WAR OBJECTIVES; AND TO TRY TO AVERT WHAT HE REGARDS AS ANY CRITICAL REDUCTION IN THE USE OF AMERICAN POWER, IN THE BELIEF THAT AFTER NOVEMBER THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES ON THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION OVER THE WAR WILL SUBSIDE. (A-1, 16)

IN A HEATED SAN FRANCISCO ENCOUNTER, FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK CLASHED WITH NIXON CAMPAIGN LEADER RITA HAUSER OVER PRISONER OF WAR ISSUES RAISED BY CLARK'S TRIP TO NORTH VIETNAM. BEFORE AN OVERFLOW LUNCHEON AUDIENCE AT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, MRS. HAUSER, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND NOW CO-CHAIRMAN OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S RE-ELECTION COMMITTEE, ASKED CLARK WHY HE HAD FAILED "TO PLEAD THE CAUSE OF OUR OWN PRISONERS" IN HANOI. CLARK, HIS VOICE RISING, DEMANDED IN REPLY WHAT MADE MRS. HAUSER THINK HE HAD NOT DONE SO. HE SAID HE HAD SOUGHT PRISONERS' RELEASE AND COUNTER-CHARGED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION "MAY CARE MORE ABOUT THE THIEU GOVERNMENT THAN ABOUT GETTING OUR BOYS HOME." CLARK THEN LEFT FOR WASHINGTON AND MRS. HAUSER TOLD NEWSMEN SHE WAS "SHOCKED" BY HIS RESPONSE.

(A-1, 15)

THE WATERGATE INCIDENT CONTINUES TO BOIL. LAWRENCE O'BRIEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MCGOVERN FOR PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN, SAID THAT HE WILL TAKE FORMAL STATEMENTS FROM MAURICE STANS AND FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL. O'BRIEN SAID DEPOSITIONS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN FROM: HUGH SLOAN, GORDON LIDDY, DOUGLAS CADDY, E. HOWARD HUNT, CHARLES GULSON, ALFRED WONG AND THE FIVE SUS-

PECTS ARRESTED IN THE BREAK-IN OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (A-8)

AMONG SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS OF AN AMERICAN SELLOUT IN THE PRIVATE PEACE TALKS YOU ARE CONDUCTING WITH NORTH VIETNAM. TYPICAL OF OFFICIAL SAIGON NERVOUSNESS HAS BEEN THE COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT THIEU. HE HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST ANY PURELY VIETNAMESE CEASE-FIRE IN RETURN FOR HANOI'S RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR AND A CESSATION OF ALL U.S. AIR AND NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE INDOCHINA THEATER. THIEU HAS SAID THAT ANY SUCH CEASE-FIRE SHOULD INCLUDE LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JOHN FINNEY NOTES SENATOR JACKSON'S CHARGE THAT THE SOVIET UNION LIED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AT THE MOSCOW SUMMIT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SOVIET MISSILE-LAUNCHING SUBMARINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR DEPLOYED, INTRODUCING A NEW COMPLICATION FOR SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. SENATOR HUGH SCOTT WARNED THAT CONTINUED DELAY BY THE SENATE TO APPROVE THE INTERIM SALT AGREEMENT "COULD JEOPARDIZE ANY FINAL VOTE AT ALL" ON THE AGREEMENT. (A-3)

THE LEAD TIMES EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT SECRETARY ROGERS, FORMER AMBASSADOR LODGE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE BEING DISINGENUOUS IN DENYING "ALL" KNOWLEDGE OF THE 1969 CHANCE FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE PRESS' PUBLICATION LAST SPRING OF NSSM-1. THE EDITORIAL FURTHER NOTES BOTH HARRIMAN AND VANCE PERSONALLY BRIEFED PRESIDENT NIXON ON HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, THAT RECORDS OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS MUST EXIST IN STATE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE FILES, AND THAT THERE IS NO VALID SECURITY REASON WHY SOME OF THIS DATA SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. (A-32)

CHINA'S UN DELEGATION TO TASK FOR THEIR HARDLINE POSITION TOWARD BANGALDESH'S APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, NOTING THAT CHINA'S THREATENED VETO WOULD NOT ONLY BE AN AFFRONT TO THE MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED BANGLADESH AND FAVOR AD-MISSION, BUT WOULD BE A VOTE AGAINST RECONCILIATION ON THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT. (A-32)

JAMES RESTON WRITES THAT YOUR SECRET TRIPS TO PARIS ARE GOOD NEWS AND GOOD POLITICS, MAKING IT MORE AWKWARD FOR SENATOR MCGOVERN TO ARGUE THAT MR. NIXON IS CONCERNED MAINLY WITH WAGING WAR. HOWEVER, HE CONCLUDES THAT NOT EVEN YOU EXPECT ANY REAL CHANGE IN THE PARIS TALKS UNTIL LATE IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHEN HANOI MAY FACE THE PROSPECT OF PROTRACTED BOMBARDMENT BY A PRESIDENT WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ANY LONGER ABOUT THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR. (A-33)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

THE SUN'S EDITORIAL COLUMN FEATURES AN ARTICLE ATTACKING RAMSEY CLARK FOR BEING DISTINCTLY IMPRUDENT IN STATEMENTS HE MADE WHILE IN HANOI. HOWEVER, IT CAUTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORTERS NOT TO BE OVER ZEALOUS IN TREATING THE CLARK INCIDENT, IF SUCH IT MAY BE CALLED, AS SOMETHING OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE. (A-12)