

TO JON HOWE (WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM)

FROM: GENERAL HAIG

State Dept. review completed

Please forward the following message to Ambassador Bunker
via CAS channels:

MORI C03353537 Pgs 1-2 = T/RIF.

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

The President has again mentioned his concern that the recent flurry of press speculation on new political initiatives will generate mistrust and suspicion on the part of President Thieu and the GVN. For this reason, he has asked me to request that you bring to President Thieu's attention the President's statement concerning coalition government and negotiated settlement made during last night's nationwide TV interview. At the outset of this program, the President made the following comments:

"There is only one matter that is not subject to negotiations, and that is the right of the South Vietnamese to determine their own future. That is one of the reasons, for example, that the speculation with regard to our having changed our position and agreeing possibly to now offer a coalition government, a negotiated settlement, imposing a coalition government, that speculation is not correct. It is not correct

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

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because, if we were to negotiate with the North Vietnamese and decide that we would have a coalition government and impose it on the South Vietnamese, that is a government without their choice.

"If the South Vietnamese, on the other hand, in the free political process, should choose Communist as well as non-Communist, and out of that should come a government that is mixed, that is up to them. But, we will not impose a coalition government against the will and without the consent of the people of South Vietnam."

The President hopes that you will be able to bring this to President Thieu's personal attention as reaffirmation of U.S. policy on this issue.

Best regards.

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