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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY

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FOSE
LORD 1972 Nov 1
NEGRO PONTE
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TOP SECRET SENSITIVE 011230Z NOV 72 VIA CAS CHANNELS (BUNKER)
FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER SAIGON 0244 IMMEDIATE
TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER
REF: WHS 2309

1. ON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, I GOT IN TOUCH WITH NHA ONLY TO FIND THAT THIEU HAD TAKEN TO BED, I ASSUME VERY POSSIBLY FROM A STATE OF EXHAUSTION. NHA TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THIEU WAS NOT FEELING WELL AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I HAVE BEEN HERE HE DID NOT APPEAR AT THE NATIONAL DAY CATHEDRAL MASS THIS AFTERNOON.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, I TOOK UP THE MATTER OF PHONG'S PRESENTATION AT TOMORROW'S PLENARY SESSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LAM AND HAVE REPORETED ON MY MEETING WITH HIM IN SAIGON 15591 WHICH HAS BEEN REPEATED TO USDEL PARIS. LAM SAID THAT HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH PHONG IMMEDIATELY AND INSTRUCT HIM TO REVISE HIS PRESENTATION, PUTTING EMPHASIS ON SELF-DETERMINATION AND ON FACT THAT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM THERE ALREADY EXISTS A GOVERNMENT. HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM TO DROP HIS POINT ON COALITION GOVERNMENT AND TO COORDINATE WITH AMBASSADOR PORTER. LAM EXPLAINED THAT PHONG HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF AND THAT HIS PROPOSED STATEMENT HAD BEEN BASED ON HANOI'S OCTOBER 26 BROADCAST.

3. I HAVE ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH THIEU TOMORROW MORNING AND WILL REPEAT WHAT I SAID TO LAM AS WELL AS OTHER POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL.

4. WARM REGARDS.

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State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF C05081064