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TO [REDACTED] 1.4(c)  
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~~TOP SECRET~~ IRINE

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3/0/ [REDACTED] 144-68

THIEU'S VIEWS ON PEACE TALKS AND BOMBING HALT

XXCC [REDACTED] 28 OCT 68 [REDACTED] 1.4(c)

*Restow  
more complete text*

SECRET.

((THIS IS)) A SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON MR. THIEU'S SPEECH [REDACTED] 1.4(c)

1. SINCE THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IS ARDENTLY LABORING TOGETHER WITH THE U.S. SIDE TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE ITEMS THAT WERE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON AT THE U.S.-VIETNAMESE HONOLULU SUMMIT CONFERENCE (19 JULY), PRESIDENT THIEU EMPHASIZED THE POINT THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON MUST ALSO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

((THIEU)) SAID THAT IT APPEARS THAT MR. NIXON WILL BE ELECTED AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT, AND HE THINKS IT WOULD BE GOOD TO TRY TO SOLVE THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL TALKS WITH THE NEXT PRESIDENT (NO MATTER WHO IS ELECTED). ((THIEU)) BELIEVES THAT OUR STANDPOINT SHOULD BE PREPARED AND STRENGTHENED NOW RATHER THAN IN THE FUTURE.

3. AS FOR THE VIETNAMESE REACTION TO MR. HUMPHREY'S STATEMENT THAT "VIETNAM DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT A DECISION TO HALT THE BOMBING", ETC, ETC, THERE WAS A TEMPORARY AGGRAVATION, AND THERE WAS AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION WITH ADHERENTS TO THE CATHOLIC AND HOA HAO RELIGIONS TAKING THE INITIATIVE.

4. THE GENERAL SENTIMENT ((BOTH)) DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, TOWARDS THIEU'S 22 OCTOBER SPECIAL PROCLAMATION WAS THAT IT WAS GOOD AND A NUMBER OF PARIS NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTED HIS VIEWS ((THE [REDACTED] WAS NOT MENTIONED), AND NEXT, ((IT)) WILL DEPEND UPON HANOI'S ATTITUDE.

5. ON THE U.S. SIDE, RUMORS ARE SPREADING THAT ONE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT PRESIDENT THIEU IS GOING TO DO AND IS ADOPTING A MUCH TOO STUBBORN ATTITUDE.

REFERENCE: AT THE TIME OF THE VIETNAMESE-U.S. TALKS, THE VIETNAMESE SIDE CONSISTED FOR THE MOST PART OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER, THE U.S. SIDE ATTENDED WITH THEIR AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY-AMBASSADOR, AND MR. HERTZ, MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

XXHH  
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By cbm, NARA, Date 12-17-10

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