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DECEMBER 4, 1972

FOR: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

FROM: GENERAL HAIG

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS REPORT FROM MR. KISSINGER TO THE PRESIDENT. GENERAL HAIG AND I HAD A PRIVATE MEETING WITH LE DUC THO AND XUAN THUY STARTING AT 10:30 THIS MORNING AND LASTING 2 AND ONE HALF HOURS. THO STARTED BY DELIVERING A CAREFULLY PREPARED AND VERY TOUGH PRESENTATION REITERATING HANOI'S INABILITY TO DEPART FROM PRINCIPLE AND CHARGING U.S. BAD FAITH. I REPLIED WITH AN EQUALLY TOUGH REBUTTAL EMPHASIZING YOUR DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH WHATEVER ALTERNATIVES HANOI'S ATTITUDE MIGHT FACE US WITH. THO SEEMED CLEARLY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR PAST PERFORMANCE WHEN CHALLENGED AND SO STATED. I THEN PRESENTED OUR MINIMUM DEMANDS WHILE MAXIMIZING THOSE CHANGES WHICH DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS. WE AGREED TO MEET IN FULL SESSION AT 4 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON AT WHICH TIME I ANTICIPATE HE WILL RESPOND TO MY PROPOSALS. THO ALSO AGREED TO MEET TOMORROW AT A LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE U.S. SIDE. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF HANOI'S OVERALL ATTITUDE FOLLOWING THIS AFTERNOON'S SESSION. THEN I WILL FURNISH YOU WITH A REPORT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT SESSION.

END OF MESSAGE

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