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FM COL GUAY HAKTO 17
TO THE SITUATION ROOM
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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

DECEMBER 6, 1972

HAKTO 17

TO: KENNEDY -FLASH-

FROM: KISSINGER

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE PRESIDENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT IT BE READ AND WE GET A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEGIN TEXT.

1. WE HELD A BRUTAL FIVE-HOUR SESSION THIS AFTERNOON AT OUR LOCATION. BOTH SIDES REVIEWED THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND ESSENTIALLY STUCK TO THEIR POSITIONS. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED YOUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A SETTLEMENT BUT ONLY IF WE GOT THE CHANGES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY MASSIVE EFFORT WITH SAIGON. THEIR POSITION REMAINED ESSENTIALLY AS IT WAS ON MONDAY, I.E., OFFERING US THE CHOICE OF RETURNING TO THE OCTOBER AGREEMENT OR EXACTING CONCESSIONS FROM US IN EXCHANGE FOR ANY CHANGES THEY WOULD ACCEPT. ALL THEIR PROPOSED CHANGES ARE UNACCEPTABLE. AT THE END WE DECIDED TO MAKE ONE FINAL EFFORT TOMORROW IN WHICH I TOLD THEM WE WOULD PRESENT OUR ABSOLUTE MINIMUM CONDITIONS ON A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS. THO HELD TO HIS POSITION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT THAT WE COULD DISCUSS "DETAILS". WE WILL MEET AT 1500 AT THEIR PLACE.

2. IN MY VIEW THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM CONDITIONS WE NEED ARE THE FOLLOWING:

-- WE MUST MAINTAIN ALL THE CHANGES WE ACHIEVED LAST WEEK. THIS IN ITSELF WILL BE A MURDEROUSLY TOUGH ACCOMPLISHMENT, SINCE THO SAID THAT SOME OF THEM WERE SUBSTANTIVE AND NOT MATTERS OF "DETAILS".

-- OBTAIN THE CORRECT TRANSLATION FOR "ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE" SO AS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE COUNCIL IS STRICTLY NONGOVERNMENTAL.

-- ADD A THREE-MONTH TARGET DATE FOR THE DEMOBILIZATION PROVISION TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE POLITICAL PROVISIONS AND GIVE THIEU SOME BARGAINING LEVERAGE.

72 DEC 6 PM 2:19

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

