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FM SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 90

TO COL GUAY PARIS

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY/EYES ONLY TOHAK90

TO: COLONEL GUAY
FROM: COLONEL KENNEDY
TO: GENERAL HAIG
FOR: DR. KISSINGER

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO DR. KISSINGER:
BEGIN TEXT.

AFTER READING YOUR MESSAGE AND GETTING THE REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HALDEMAN I WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT YOU INDEPENDENTLY HAD REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION I HAD. I HAVE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD GO FORWARD WITH THE SECOND OPTION WITH THE ONLY CONDITION BEING THAT THE AGREEMENT WE GET MUST BE SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER OCT. 8 AS YOU HAVE INDICATED IT IS. I AM COMPLETELY AWARE OF ALL THE PROBLEMS WE WILL HAVE IN GETTING AGREEMENT FROM THIEU AND IN POLICING THE AGREEMENT IF IT IS REACHED, HOWEVER I BELIEVE THE RISKS OF THE OTHER OPTION OF BREAKING OFF THE TALKS AND ESCALATING THE BOMBING ARE FAR GREATER. YOU ARE CORRECT IN PLACING SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE NECESSITY FOR THIEU TO BE POSITIVE IN HIS REACTION. I REALIZE THAT IT WILL BE A MONUMENTAL PROBLEM TO ACHIEVE THAT KIND OF REACTION FROM HIM - BUT OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS FOR US TO BE FIRM AND POSITIVE NOW THAT WE HAVE DETERMINED TO GO ON THIS COURSE. THERE MUST BE NO TURNING BACK AND NO SECOND GUESSING. THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

IN YOUR TALKS TOMMORROW, WITHOUT BEING BELIGERENT, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT IN A LOW KEY, IF YOU THINK WISE, THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT EITHER COURSE OF ACTION AND WILL NOT ALLOW POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ENTER INTO HIS DECISION IN ANY WAY AS EVIDENCED BY HIS TWO-HOUR MEETING TODAY WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JCS.

I STRONGLY FEEL YOU SHOULD PRESS FOR A SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN A RECESS UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SUBSTANTIAL TO BE GAINED FROM A RECESS. IF THERE IS A RECESS, IT SHOULD BE 3-4 DAYS AT THE MOST.

WARM REGARDS.

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