

[REDACTED]

THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO ME FOLLOWS:

TO HENRY KISSINGER
FROM THE PRESIDENT

I HAVE CHECKED TODAY AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE LEADING DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WHO SUPPORT US IN THE SENATE ON VIETNAM. IN PREPARING THEM FOR THE CONSULTATION WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED WE HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE OCTOBER 3 AGREEMENT --THE RETURN OF OUR POWS, A CEASEFIRE, AND THE FORMULA UNDER WHICH THIEU REMAINS IN POWER AND ALL SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A FREE ELECTION TO DETERMINE WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT FOR THE FUTURE. THE RESULT OF THIS CHECK INDICATES THAT THEY WERE NOT ONLY UNANIMOUS BUT VEHEMENT IN STATING THEIR CONCLUSIONS THAT IF SAIGON IS THE ONLY ROADBLOCK FOR REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS BASIS THEY WILL PERSONALLY LEAD THE FIGHT WHEN THE NEW CONGRESS RECONVENES ON JANUARY 3 TO CUT OFF ALL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

TO SAIGON. MY EVALUATION IS THAT THE DATE OF THE CUT OFF WOULD BE FEBRUARY 1. THEY FURTHER BELIEVE THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO IT ALONE AND TO MAKE A SEPARATE DEAL WITH NORTH VIETNAM FOR THE RETURN OF OUR POWS AND FOR OUR WITHDRAWAL.

[REDACTED]

LAO LUG...

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~