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BEEN ABSOLUTELY FIRST CLASS.

6. NEXT MEETING WAS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LAM, ACCOMPANIED BY BUNKER. DISCUSSION CONCERNED TWO PRIMARY SUBJECTS: A) NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRG, AND B) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. ON FORMER LAM LAID OUT LOGICAL SCHEME OF ACTION WHICH GVN INTENDS TO PURSUE. THEIR PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR WITH THE PRG WILL PROBABLY BE VICE PRIME MINISTER VIEN. THEY HAVE SUGGESTED RANGOON AS PREFERABLE LOCUS OF NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH PRG PREFERS PARIS. LAM HIMSELF IS PREPARED TO ARRIVE IN PARIS A FEW DAYS EARLY FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO RESUME PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH MADAME BINH. THEY HAVE IN MIND A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION COMPOSED OF ABOUT THIRTY MEMBERS. THEY UNDERSTAND AND INTEND TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE IN PRESSING FOR RAPID POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, RECOGNIZING THAT THE PRG IS UNPREPARED FOR SERIOUS MOVE TOWARD ELECTIONS.

7. CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, LAM SEEMS RELATIVELY WELL PREPARED BUT HAD NO PARTICULARLY HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING CHAIRMANSHIP. I FLOATED BOTH US-DRV CO-CHAIRMANSHIP AND ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP AMONG ICCS MEMBERS WITHOUT GETTING ANY PARTICULAR RESPONSE. HE SEEMS PREPARED TO ACCEPT PRG PRESENCE, NAME PLATE AND TITLE. HOWEVER HE TALKED IN TERMS OF REFUSING TO SIGN FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE. INSTEAD HE PROPOSED ISSUING A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE ACT. BUNKER AND I BOTH TOOK VIOLENT EXCEPTION TO THIS SUGGESTION, THEREBY EXTRACTING LAM'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMPROMISE ACTION IN WHICH SIGNATURES WOULD BE ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER. WE TOLD HIM THIS SEEMED FEASIBLE AND THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IT.

8. MY NEXT SESSION WAS LUNCH WITH GENERALS WOODWARD AND WICKHAM, WITH JOHN VOGT PRESENT. THEY REPORTED ON MORNING MEETING OF JMC, IN WHICH COMMUNISTS DID TABLE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL, BUT FAILED TO INTRODUCE POINTS OF ENTRY. I ENCOURAGED WOODWARD TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR JMC AND ICCS TO OBSERVE U.S. AND ROK DEPARTURES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROTOCOL PROVISIONS. HE AGREED. I ALERTED VOGT TO POSSIBILITY OF CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS AND HE RAISED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING U.S. AIR REACTION IF CEASE-FIRE IS VIOLATED. I ADVISED HIM THAT ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE PRESIDENT.

9. I THEN PAID SURPRISE VISIT TO DRV/PRG CONCENTRATION CAMP, ACCOMPANIED BY ENGEL AND U.S. LIAISON OFFICER. GVN MILITARY POLICE REFUSED TO PERMIT MY VEHICLE TO ENTER CAMP. THEY EVEN ATTEMPTED (INSUCCESSFULLY) TO PREVENT ENGEL AND ME FROM WALKING IN ON FOOT, WHICH WE DID AFTER WAITING FIVE MINUTES FOR VEHICLE CLEARANCE. IN CAMP WE MET GENERALS HOA AND TRA, PLUS YOUR FRIEND BLINKY. I GAVE THEM ALL GREETINGS FROM LE DUC THO. THEY THEN Poured OUT LIST OF COMPLAINTS, MOST OF WHICH CENTERED UPON

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