PP RUEHC
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JAN 24 AM 12 11
PRIORITY NODIS BUTTERCUP
FM AMB. BUNKER 214
TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVE FOR MR. KISSINGER
SECSTATE, EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY ROGERS
SECEDEF, EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY LARD
DIRECTOR CIA, EXCLUSIVE FOR MR. HELMS

1. MID-MORNING 23 JANUARY "JEANNE" TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT SHE HAD NO REPEAT NO RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS SINCE SUCH QUESTIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR PROPOSAL. CONCERNING MUOI HAI, SHE SAID THAT WE SHOULD CHECK WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE FOR INFORMATION ON HIM, AS THEY WOULD KNOW HIS STATUS. WHEN SHE ASKED IF WE AGREED WITH THEIR PROPOSAL AND WOULD WE RESPOND TO IT, SHE WAS TOLD TO CALL BACK THE SAME AFTERNOON. SHE SAID SHE COULD NOT DO THIS AND INSTEAD WOULD CALL MORNING 24 JANUARY.

2. COMMENT: HER REFERENCE TO POLICE PROBABLY MEANS, AS WE EARLIER ASSUMED, THAT OTHER SIDE IS WELL AWARE THAT MUOI HAI IS DEAD.

3. SINCE I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD GET BOGGED DOWN AT THIS POINT IN DETAILS AND POSSIBLY THWART AN AUTHENTIC EFFORT TO EXCHANGE PRISONERS, WHEN SHE CALLS ON 24 JANUARY, WE PLAN TO PASS HER FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

A. WE GET MANY CALLS AND OFFERS FROM DISHONEST PEOPLE OFFERING TO RELEASE AMERICAN PRISONERS, THEREFORE, OUR QUESTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO DETERMINE IF WE ARE IN FACT TALKING TO A RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRONT. WE KNOW THE IDENTITY OF TU ANH AND THE OTHERS AND ANY RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FRONT WOULD KNOW THE SAME THING. OUR QUESTION CONCERNING MUOI HAI SIMPLY MEANT THAT WE HAD NO IDEA WHO HE IS.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12358, as amended, Sect 3.5
By NARA, Date 6/2/2010
B. AS TO YOUR PROPOSAL, WE AGAIN WISH TO REPEAT THAT WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS AND WE ARE EXAMINING THE MATTER. SINCE THE FRONT HAS REQUESTED FOUR INDIVIDUALS BY NAME, WE INTEND TO REQUEST THAT CERTAIN AMERICANS ALSO BY NAME BE RELEASED IN EXCHANGE. ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO WE GAVE TU ANH A LIST OF TEN AMERICAN PRISONERS WHOM WE WANTED EXCHANGED, BUT WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST.

C. WE CONSIDER THIS MATTER OF PRISONER EXCHANGES IMPORTANT AND DELICATE. TO WORK OUT DETAILS WE BELIEVE THAT FACE TO FACE CONTACT IS NECESSARY TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE ACTUAL EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. IF YOUR SIDE IS AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH A MEETING WE SHALL PROPOSE A TIME AND PLACE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

D. IF "JEANNE" ACCEPTS OUR OFFER FOR A FACE TO FACE MEETING WE WILL GO TO THE MEETING PREPARED TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR RELEASING TEN AMERICANS FOR FOUR FRONT REPRESENTATIVES. NEED IMMEDIATELY, THEREFORE, UPDATED LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED.

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