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ROUTINE
NJA905JIB083
DE RUMJIR #1119 2341185
R 221048Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8067

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAIGON 11119

EXDIS
EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR VS
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT THIEU TO PRESIDENT FORD

1. THE ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AUGUST 22 PASSED US FOR OUR INFORMATION FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT THIEU TO PRESIDENT FORD WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON BY AMBASSADOR PHUONG.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SAIGON, AUGUST 21, 1974, DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

3. I AM PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 10, 1974 AND TO RENEW MY WISHES FOR THE FULL SUCCESS OF YOUR MISSION, WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO AMERICA BUT ALSO TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



4. AS YOUR EXCELLENCY SO APTLY PUT IT, WE HAVE TRAVELED A LONG AND HARD ROAD TOGETHER DURING THE PAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS. DURING THIS HISTORIC JOURNEY, MANY FINE YOUNG MEN OF BOTH NATIONS HAD GIVEN THEIR LIVES AND WE SHALL SEE TO IT THAT THEIR SUPREME SACRIFICE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE IN VAIN. THIS MEANS THAT A GENUINE PEACE MUST BE SECURED AND THAT THE SACRED RIGHT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO SELF DETERMINATION MUST BE PRESERVED.

5. IN THAT NOBLE ENDEAVOUR, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM HAS DONE ITS UTMOST TO RESPECT AND IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO PEACE AND TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE VIET-NAM PROBLEM RESIDES IN THE STUBBORN AND BELLICOSE ATTITUDE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WHO DO NOT RENOUNCE TO THEIR SCHEME OF FORCIBLE CONQUEST OF SOUTH VIET-NAM YET. TO OVERCOME THAT OBSTACLE, WE MUST SHOW THE COMMUNIST SIDE THAT THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THEM EITHER TO BREAK

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

HAK, SCOWCROFT, LL, STEARMAN, SMYSER

PSN:030494 PAGE 01 TOR:234/13:40Z DTG:221048Z AUG 74

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KBH 3/100

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THE WILL OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE OR TO UNDERMINE THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

6. YOUR ASSURANCES ABOUT THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS VIET-NAM AND ABOUT THE ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID THAT WE COULD GET IN THE END ARE MOST HELPFUL IN THAT RESPECT. I STRONGLY HOPE THAT FUTURE ACTIONS BY THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL FURTHER CONVINCE THE COMMUNIST SIDE OF OUR COMMON DETERMINATION AND STEADFASTNESS OF PURPOSE, THUS BRINGING PEACE THAT MUCH NEARER. SINCERELY,

(SIGNED) THIEU, END TEXT.
LEHMANN
BT



PSN1030494 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:254/13:40Z DTG:221046Z AUG 74

*****CONFIDENTIAL***** COPY



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 7417073

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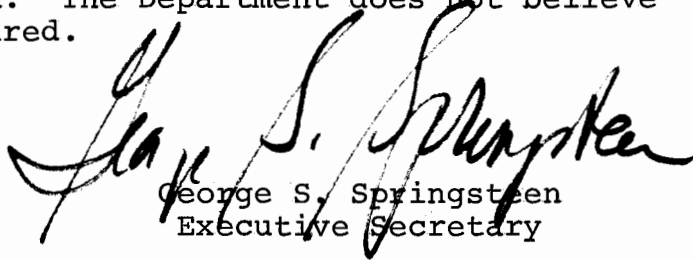
September 17, 1974

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Letter for President Ford from Vietnamese
President Thieu

Vietnamese Ambassador Tran Kim Phuong delivered to the Acting Secretary September 3 the attached letter from President Thieu to President Ford. The letter is in response to President Ford's letter of August 10, which reiterated U. S. assurances of continued support for the Republic of Viet-Nam in the new Administration. It is not President Thieu's initial congratulatory message to which a reply has been transmitted. The Department does not believe a reply is required.


George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Original Letter from President Thieu



CONFIDENTIAL

GDS KBH 3/3/00



Saigon, August 21 , 1974

NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of August 10, 1974 and to renew my wishes for the full success of your mission, which is most important not only to America but also to the rest of the world.

As Your Excellency so aptly put it, we have traveled a long and hard road together during the past twenty five years. During this historic journey, many fine young men of both nations had given their lives and we shall see to it that their supreme sacrifice would not have been made in vain. This means that a genuine peace must be secured and that the sacred right of the South Vietnamese people to self determination must be preserved.

In that noble endeavour, I can assure you that the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has done its utmost to respect and implement the Paris Agreement. The only obstacle to peace and to a political solution of the Viet-Nam problem resides in the stubborn and bellicose attitude of the North Vietnamese who do not renounce to their scheme of forcible conquest of South Viet-Nam yet. To overcome that obstacle, we must show the Communist side that there is no hope for them either to break the will of the South Vietnamese people or to undermine the support of the U.S. for the Republic of Viet-Nam.

...

His Excellency GERALD R. FORD
President of the United States Of America.
Washington D. C.

Your assurances about the continuity of American policy towards Viet-Nam and about the adequate amount of military and economic aid that we could get in the end are most helpful in that respect. I strongly hope that future actions by the U.S. Congress will further convince the Communist side of our common determination and steadfastness of purpose, thus bringing peace that much nearer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature, possibly "Wheeler", is written in black ink. Below the signature are two parallel, slightly curved horizontal lines, also drawn in black ink.

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR		INITIAL ACTION O
M	DA	MO	DA	HR		
9	17	9	17	19	7404/48	Stearman

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: Thieu, Nguyen V REFERENCE: 7417073 CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

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DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ S _____ EYES ONLY EXDIS

TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Ask ltr to Pres fm Pres Thieu of South Vietnamese re continued US support for South Vietnam

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK ()
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES ()
FAR EAST <u>Stearman</u>	<u>X</u>			REPLY FOR ()
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION ()
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO TO ()
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS ()
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO ()
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO FOR ()
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? <u>X</u>
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE ()
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: 9/26
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				<u>envelope opened 9/17 by NSC/S</u>
OCEANS POLICY				<u>(BTM)</u>
INTELLIGENCE				

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
9/27	Quinn	S	C	No reply needed per Quinn	

DISPATCH _____

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: _____

NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: J **FOLDER:** _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D _____ BY _____

CRT ID: 0 _____ SA SF

OPEN _____ 1974 HP NS

CLOSE BTM _____ WH EP

_____ PA DY



Saigon, September 19, 1974

NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Dear Mr. President,

About a month ago, I wrote to Your Excellency about the situation facing the Republic of Viet-Nam as the Communist side spurned all negotiations and stepped up their armed attacks in complete disregard of the Paris Agreement.

Since then, the situation has become even more serious. In fact, the prospects for the resumption of the talks between the two South Vietnamese parties are bleaker than ever, while the Communist generalized offensive continues unabated. Now the leaders of the Hanoi regime openly declare their active support for movements aimed at overthrowing the legal Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam while they intensify their infiltrations and military action, thus baring their plans for a forcible conquest of the whole South Viet-Nam.



His Excellency Mr. Gerald E. FORD
President of the United States of America
Washington D. C.

I think that the main cause for the increasingly defiant and bellicose attitude of the Communists resides in their believing that the United States is now wavering in its dedication to our common goal, namely a South Viet-Nam capable of defending itself and of deciding its own future. The utterly inadequate amount of military and economic aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam which has been voted by the U. S. Congress might have induced the Communists to make such speculations.

This can in turn lead to very dangerous miscalculations on the part of the Communists, as they might be tempted to launch an all out offensive to complete their forcible conquest of South Viet-Nam.

Therefore, it is essential that the United States unmistakably demonstrates once again its attachment to a serious implementation of the Paris Agreement and its support for the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, if peace is to be restored in South Viet-Nam and in South East Asia.

In this respect, I am most appreciative of your efforts made on September 12th to persuade leaders of Congress to restore the cuts in aid funds. I sincerely hope that Your Excellency will succeed in bringing the amounts of military and economic assistance up to the levels required by the new realities of the situation and the need for South Viet-Nam to achieve an economic takeoff.

...

The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam had signed the Paris Agreement in good faith, under the double assurance that, on the one hand, Russia and Red China will exercise a restraining influence upon Hanoi and that, on the other hand, all necessary military equipments and economic assistance will be provided by the United States to the Republic of Viet-Nam to maintain its capabilities of self defense and to develop its national economy.

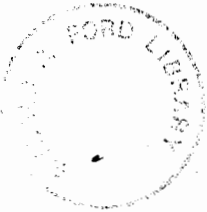
The first assumption turned out to be an empty promise, as Russia and Red China continue to give North Viet-Nam all the ingredients to pursue an aggressive war in South Viet-Nam.

But I am convinced that thanks to your generous efforts, the second assumption will be borne out.

Our valiant soldiers by enduring daily sacrifices in the battlefields have proved beyond doubt our will to resist Communist aggression. It would be unfortunate indeed if sufficient means could not be supplied to them because of the lack of resolve and misconception on the part of our allies.

Beside providing us with an adequate amount of military and economic assistance, the United States can also show its support for the just cause of the Republic of Viet-Nam by solemnly restating our common goals. In this regard, I hope that some time in the near future, we can meet together

...



to discuss about ways and means to achieve a genuine peace in South Viet-Nam.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my lasting friendship and highest consideration.



Thieu

2/A
Stepped 10/5/74
(Peter: File)
Saigon, September 19, 1974

Dear Mr. President,

About a month ago, I wrote to Your Excellency about the situation facing the Republic of Viet-Nam as the Communist side spurned all negotiations and stepped up their armed attacks in complete disregard of the Paris Agreement.

Since then, the situation has become even more serious. In fact, the prospects for the resumption of the talks between the two South Vietnamese parties are bleaker than ever, while the Communist generalized offensive continues unabated. Now the leaders of the Hanoi regime openly declare their active support for movements aimed at overthrowing the legal Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam while they intensify their infiltrations and military action, thus baring their plans for a forcible conquest of the whole South Viet-Nam.

His Excellency Mr. Gerald E. FORD
President of the United States of America
Washington D. C.



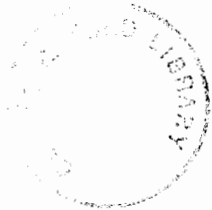
I think that the main cause for the increasingly defiant and bellicose attitude of the Communists resides in their believing that the United States is now wavering in its dedication to our common goal, namely a South Viet-Nam capable of defending itself and of deciding its own future. The utterly inadequate amount of military and economic aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam which has been voted by the U. S. Congress might have induced the Communists to make such speculations.

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to discuss about ways and means to achieve a genuine peace in South Viet-Nam.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my lasting friendship and highest consideration.

Republic of Viet-Nam

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 1986

PAGE 01 STATE 236790

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APPROVED BY EA/VN:RHWENZEL
S/S -JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 236790

EXDIS

E.O. 11852: N/A
TAGS: MASS, VS, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER TO
PRESIDENT THIEU DATED OCTOBER 24.

BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BAC
AND RECEIVING FROM HIM YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 19.

AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM REMAINS UNCHANGED UNDER
THIS ADMINISTRATION. WE CONTINUE STRONGLY TO SUPPORT
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEFEND AND TO PROMOTE THE
INDEPENDENCE AND WELL-BEING OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.
WE ALSO REMAIN CONFIDENT IN THE COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND
SKILL OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES.

I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT
SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY THE
GROWING COMMUNIST MILITARY THREAT WHICH YOU NOW FACE.

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 235790

I AM ALSO WELL AWARE OF THE CRITICAL NECESSITY OF AMERICAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FOR YOUR COUNTRY. I GIVE YOU MY

FIRM ASSURANCE THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE YOU NEED.

ALTHOUGH I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS TO ACHIEVE A GENUINE AND LASTING PEACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, PRIOR COMMITMENTS PRECLUDE SUCH A MEETING AT THIS TIME. BUT I HOPE THAT SUCH A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED IN THE FUTURE.

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT MY GOVERNMENT CLEARLY INDICATE ITS SUPPORT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. I BELIEVE MY PUBLIC STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 9, MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BAC AND DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY CLEMENT'S VISIT TO SAIGON ALL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE STANDING FIRM IN OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU. WE HAVE ALSO CONVEYED TO OTHER POWERS HAVING AN INTEREST IN VIETNAM THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THAT WE FAVOR A COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. I SHALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER OCCASIONS TO SHOW MY SUPPORT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE PEACE THAT WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER.

OUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY DIFFICULT TIMES TOGETHER. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT WE SHALL FACE OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE. I AM CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE OVERCOME IF WE WORK TOGETHER TO MEET THEM WITH STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION.

WITH BEST WISHES FOR YOU AND FOR THE VALIANT PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD END TEXT.

SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Embassy of Viet Nam
Washington, D. C.
No. 3199/W/CT

→ Secret FY1

November 27, 1974

His Excellency Gerald R. Ford
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

I have the honour to transmit to you the following message from His Excellency Nguyen Van Thieu, President of the Republic of Vietnam:

Quote: Dear Mr. President:

I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU MY HEARTFELT THANKS FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HIGHLY VALUE THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO THEIR JUST CAUSE. IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT THE COMMON DETERMINATION OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL INDUCE THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO RESPECT THE PARIS AGREEMENT SO AS TO RESTORE PEACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM.


PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

Signed NGUYEN VAN THIEU

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Unquote

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Truly yours,


Tran Kim Phuong
Ambassador



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

~~Feb 11 !!~~

Dear Mr. President:

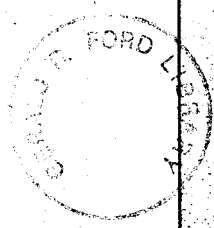
I appreciate

Your thoughtful letter of January 25 ~~at a time~~
~~when~~ Vietnam is very much on my mind, and ~~on the~~
~~minds of other people here and throughout the world.~~

I share your concern ~~about~~ ^{our} North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and ~~about~~ ^{our} the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks, ~~despite the existing~~
~~limitations on ammunition and other supplies with~~
~~which you are faced.~~ I was particularly impressed *stet*
by the gallant performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.

~~In spite of North Vietnam's escalating military attacks,~~
~~your Government continues to press for unconditional~~
~~resumption of the negotiations which the Communists~~
~~broke off last summer.~~ Even though your several offers to reinstitute negotiations have all been rejected thus far, they demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war. We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the



~~SECRET~~

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By 1034, NARA, Date 3/3/00

SECRET

-2-

bloodshed in Vietnam; We, ~~therefore~~, strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations ~~and in the meantime~~.

~~We have frequently stated that the United States would provide South Vietnam with the means to defend itself, and I intend to do everything I can to achieve this objective. Specifically, as you know, I have just requested the Congress to appropriate an additional \$300 million in military aid this fiscal year to help provide your forces with the ammunition and other supplies needed to turn back North Vietnamese attacks.~~

~~ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES~~

The path to peace is never easy. It has been extraordinarily long and difficult in Vietnam. But I remain hopeful that if we persevere we will yet reach our objective of a fair peace, a lasting peace, a peace which is consistent with the will of the South Vietnamese people and which justifies the sacrifices of the Vietnamese and American peoples.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon

SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

7B

Date: 2-11-75

TO: Paul Theis

1975 FEB 11 PM 5 22

ok / [signature]

For clearance and/or comments
and return to me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

JW 2/14/75

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary
(Ext. 3440-1)



Attachment

70

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate your thoughtful letter of January 25. Vietnam is very much on my mind, and I share your concern over North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and over the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks, despite ^{your} ~~the~~ existing limitations on ammunition and other supplies, ~~with which you are faced~~. I was particularly impressed by the gallant performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.


Even though your several offers to reinstitute negotiations have ~~all~~ been rejected thus far, they ^{clearly} demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war.

We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the bloodshed in Vietnam. We strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations, and in the meantime, I intend to do everything I can to ensure that the United States provides South Vietnam with the means to defend itself.

The path to peace is never easy. It has been extraordinarily long and difficult in Vietnam. But I remain hopeful that if we persevere we will yet reach our objective of a fair peace, a lasting peace, ^{and} a peace which is consistent with the will of the South Vietnamese people -- ~~and which justifies~~ ^{ese} the sacrifices of the Vietnam and American peoples.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

Dear Mr. President:

Your thoughtful letter of January 25 comes at a time when Vietnam is very much on my mind and on the minds of other people here and throughout the world. I share your concern about North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and about the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks, despite the existing limitations on ammunition and other supplies with which you are faced. I was particularly impressed by the gallant performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.

In spite of North Vietnam's escalating military attacks, your Government continues to press for unconditional resumption of the negotiations which the Communists broke off last summer. Even though your several offers to reinstitute negotiations have all been rejected thus far, they demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war. We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 3/3/00

SECRET

-2-

bloodshed in Vietnam; we, therefore, strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations.

We have frequently stated that the United States would provide South Vietnam with the means to defend itself, and I intend to do everything I can to achieve this objective. Specifically, as you know, I have just requested the Congress to appropriate an additional \$300 million in military aid this fiscal year to help provide your forces with the ammunition and other supplies needed to turn back North Vietnamese attacks.

The path to peace is never easy. It has been extraordinarily long and difficult in Vietnam. But I remain hopeful that if we persevere we will yet reach our objective of a fair peace, a lasting peace, a peace which is consistent with the will of the South Vietnamese people and which justifies the sacrifices of the Vietnamese and American peoples.

Sincerely,



His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon

SECRET

3) KATHY MEEHAN

SA



WEST BASEMENT - WH

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NCCS

~~Letter of deposit
to state
transmission
JMS~~

NSC REFERRAL TO STATE SECRETARIAT

Date: Feb. 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NSC LOG# 0817

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Presidential 'green' letter

TO: Pres Thieu of Vietnam

FROM: The President

DATE: Feb. 24, 1975

SUBJECT: Continued support for Vietnam

ACTION REQUESTED:

 DRAFT REPLY FOR: PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE
 WHITE HOUSE STAFF SIGNATURE
 OTHER

 DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

 ~~XX~~DISPATCH

 RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

 TRANSLATION

 APPROPRIATE HANDLING

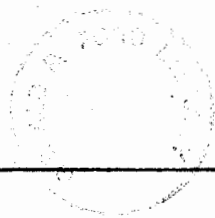
 INFORMATION

 FOR ADDITIONAL PROCESSING AS INDICATED:

DUE DATE: Match 6

URGENT xxxx
ROUTINE

COMMENTS:



J. W. Davis
for JEANNE W. DAVIS
Staff Secretary

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~

ACTION

February 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: W.L. STEARMAN *WLS*

SUBJECT: Presidential Response to Thieu Letters



At Tab B is the signed Presidential letter replying to a President Thieu letter which was received telegraphically and which State said was dated January 25 (Tab C). We just received the actual letter and discovered it was dated January 24. To complicate things further, we also just received another letter from Thieu dated January 25 (Tab D) which was not sent telegraphically. At Tab A for your approval is a redrafted first page which replies to the second letter and corrects the date of Thieu's first letter.

The new (January 25) Thieu letter asks the President to denounce Communist violations and to use his influence to prevail upon the Communist side to implement the Agreement and to return to the negotiating table. We have added a sentence to the original letter responding to this request. The only changes are:

- Added reference to the January 24 letter;
- Added last sentence in the first paragraph;
- Deleted "in the meantime" and added "until peace comes" in the last sentence of paragraph three.

I would appreciate your approving the revised first page without sending it to the President. The reply is already long overdue -- partly because we wanted Graham Martin's views before drafting a response.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve transmission of the letter to President Thieu using the revised first page at Tab A.

Approve *CS* Disapprove _____

Dick Smyser concurs *[initials]*
 Paul Theis has approved revised page

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
 NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
 BY *[initials]*, NARA, DATE 3/24/04

80

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

Your thoughtful letters of January 24 and 25 come at a time when Vietnam is very much on my mind and on the minds of other people here and throughout the world. I share your concern about North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and about the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure. I wish to assure you that this Government will continue to press for the full implementation of this Agreement.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks. Despite your existing limitations on ammunition and other supplies, I was particularly impressed by the performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.

Even though your offers to reinstitute negotiations have been rejected thus far, they clearly demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war. We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the bloodshed in Vietnam. We strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations and will make every effort to provide the assistance that is so necessary to your struggle until peace comes.



The path to peace is never easy. It has been extraordinarily long and difficult in Vietnam. But I remain hopeful that if we persevere we will yet reach our objective of a fair peace, a lasting peace and a peace which is consistent with the will of the South Vietnamese people -- justifying the sacrifices of the Vietnamese and American peoples.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford



His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the Republic of Vietnam
Saigon



NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Saigon, January 24th, 1975

Dear Mr. President,

As we are approaching the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement of 27 January 1973, I wish to draw your attention to the very grave situation our country is facing as a result of the continuing aggression carried out by North Vietnamese troops in South Viet-Nam.

Indeed during the last two years, and despite the existence of the Paris Agreement, North Viet-Nam has vastly increased its military capability in the South, stepped up land and population grabbing operations and launched incessant attacks against outposts, bases, district towns which were indisputably under the jurisdiction and control of our government long before the Paris Agreement was concluded. The recent capture of the Phuoc-Long province last week -- certainly the most massive and the most blatant violation of the Paris Agreement -- clearly shows that the North Vietnamese and their political instrument in the South, the "National Liberation Front", have completely

...

His Excellency Gerald Ford,
President of the United States of America
WASHINGTON, D. C.

disregarded the Agreement. It is quite evident by now that North Viet-Nam instead of seeking a political solution within the framework of the Paris Agreement, has again resorted to military adventures to impose their will over South Viet-Nam.

You are certainly aware, Mr. President, that this continued aggression from North Viet-Nam constitutes a most serious threat to the survival of South Viet-Nam as a free and independent country and destroys the chance for the South Vietnamese people to exercise their right of self-determination, a principle for the defence of which more than fifty thousand young Americans as well as hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese had sacrificed their lives. To uphold this principle, our troops have fought gallantly and well, and since the withdrawal of all allied troops they have shown determination and ability to go forward alone to preserve our independence and freedom.

Nevertheless as North Viet-Nam continues to receive large quantities of war material from communist countries to pursue their armed aggression against South Viet-Nam, we must rely on the assistance of the United States of America for the supply of equipment and ammunition necessary to our defence. In most cases we have sustained setbacks solely because of the communist massive application of fire power and armor ; on our side our troops had to count every single shell they fire in order to make the ammunition last.

I understand that some sections of the American public opinion have been induced into believing that too much aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam would only prolong the war and encourage us not to seek a political solution. The record clearly shows the opposite. Reduction of military assistance to Viet-Nam by the U.S. Congress has only encouraged the Communists. Thus, they have broken off all the negotiations in Saigon as well as in Paris and systematically rejected all

...

our proposals for general elections. Taking advantage of the scarcity of our supplies and hoping that adequate aid for us will not be forthcoming, they are once again undertaking to destroy our government structure by force of arms with a view of imposing a solution of their own.

Two years ago we signed the Paris Agreement with the hope that the elaborate structure for global peace would effectively work. We also signed with the great conviction that should the communists resort to the use of force again we will be provided with adequate means to defend ourselves.

Today I wish to appeal to you to take all necessary action to preserve the Paris Agreement. I am aware of and thankful for the numerous personal efforts and intervention you have made in our behalf since you took over the highest office of your great country. I am also very heartened by your decision last week to seek more supplemental military assistance for the Republic of Viet-Nam.

I hope that you will be successful in convincing the United States Congress and the American people that the cutbacks and restrictions in aid to the Republic of Viet-Nam could undermine its very survival and eventually make a mockery of the commitment of the United States to the defence of peace in Viet-Nam.

I trust that you and the Secretary of State will not spare any effort to preserve the Paris Agreement and to ensure that the countless sacrifices that our two nations have made will not be made in vain.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lyndon B. Johnson", is written over two parallel horizontal lines. The signature is slanted upwards from left to right.

*Embassy of Viet Nam
Washington, D. C.*

0224/W/CT

February 13, 1975

Dear Mr. President;

I have the honor to forward to you, herewith enclosed, a letter dated January 25, 1975, from the President of the Republic of Vietnam.

Please accept, dear Mr. President, the renewed assurances of my highest respects.

Truly yours,



Tran Kim Phuong
Ambassador



His Excellency Mr. GERALD R. FORD
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.



NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Saigon, January 25, 1975

Your Excellency,

On April 25 last year, I wrote to Your Excellency about the tense situation in South Viet-Nam following the capture of the Tong-Le-Chan base by North Vietnamese communist troops.

Since then the situation has considerably worsened because of the numerous and increasingly brazen violations of the Paris Agreement of January 27, 1973 by the communist side. It has reached a critical stage with the recent events in the Province of Phuoc-Long.

In fact, from December 14, 1974 on, important North Vietnamese troops at division strength, massively supported by tanks and artillery, were attacking and forcibly seizing the district towns in the Province of Phuoc-Long, a territory that is undisputably under the permanent control of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam for many decades up to now. On January 7, 1975 communist troops

.../2

His Excellency Mr. GERALD FORD
President of the United States of America
WASHINGTON D. C. (U. S. A.)

overran the provincial capital Phuoc-Binh, after having subjected this city to heavy artillery barrages, in callous disregard of the fate of over 26,000 of its inhabitants, including many women, children, the sick and the wounded.

The communist capture of the Province of Phuoc Long which clearly belongs to the Republic of Viet-Nam constitutes a blatant, grave and large scale violation of the ceasefire-in-place ordered by the Paris Agreement. It also represents an intolerable challenge to all peace-loving countries and nations in the world.

The capture of Phuoc-Long by communist troops is by no means an isolated incident. It is a part of a communist plan aimed at deliberately and systematically destroying the Paris Agreement, through continuous and grave violations of the ceasefire by communist troops, through the communist unilateral boycott of the peace negotiations between Vietnamese parties as prescribed by the Paris Agreement, through the overt call made by the communist side for the overthrow of the legal Government of South Viet-Nam and the massive buildup of the communist military strength in South Viet-Nam.

If the Communists were allowed to carry out this plan with impunity, the Viet-Nam war would break out anew and peace in South-East Asia and in the world would be once again endangered.

The International Commission of Control and Supervision set up by the Paris Agreement is now thoroughly paralyzed due to the non-cooperation of the communist side. As to the Paris International Conference on Viet-Nam, given the present negative stance of its communist participants, there is no likelihood that this Conference can be reconvened in the near future.

Thus, while the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam maintains its correct position of strictly respecting and seriously implementing the Paris Agreement of January 27, 1973, it is duty-bound to defend its territory and population against Communist attacks and encroachments. I am convinced that this just position deserves the whole-hearted support of all the peace and freedom loving people in the world.

Therefore I wish to ask Your Excellency to strongly denounce and severely condemn the violations of the Paris Agreement perpetrated by the communist side in Viet-Nam. I also hope that Your Excellency will use your great influence to prevail upon the communist side to respect the ceasefire, return to the negotiating table and implement every provision of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, we would most appreciate Your Excellency's eventual statement of support for the just cause and the correct stand of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

All this would be indeed a valuable contribution to the restoration of peace in Viet-Nam and in South-East Asia.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shaw', is written over two parallel horizontal lines. The lines are slightly slanted upwards from left to right.

MEMORANDUM


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

817

SECRETACTION

February 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER 

SUBJECT: Reply to a Letter to You From
South Vietnamese President Thieu

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu has written you (Tab B) citing his concern over the recent step-up in North Vietnamese attacks, expressing thanks for your personal efforts in seeking supplemental aid for South Vietnam and asking that you take all action necessary to preserve the Paris Agreement.

At Tab A is a draft reply from you to President Thieu. Your reply thanks him for his letter, indicates that you share his concern over the recent escalation of military activity, conveys your praise for the gallant performance of South Vietnam's military forces, and states your intention to do everything within your means to provide South Vietnam with the supplies necessary to defend itself.

Paul Theis has seen the draft response and concurs.

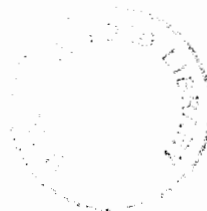
RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the draft response at Tab A.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By KBH, NARA, Date 3/3/00SECRET

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 12

TO BUD MACFARLANE

We have revised the letter to Thieu as suggested, and have run it back through Paul Theis.


Jeanne Davis



MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

817

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L
P. 4

ACTION

SECRET

February 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*
SUBJECT: Presidential Reply to a Letter from
South Vietnamese President Thieu

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu has written the President (Tab B) citing his concern over the recent step-up in North Vietnamese attacks, expressing thanks for the President's personal efforts in seeking supplemental aid for South Vietnam and appealing to the President to take all action necessary to preserve the Paris Agreement.

At Tab A is a draft Presidential reply to President Thieu's letter. The President's reply thanks President Thieu for his letter, indicates that the President shares his concern over the recent escalation of military activity, conveys the President's praise for the gallant performance of South Vietnam's military forces, and states the President's intention to do everything within his means to provide South Vietnam with the supplies necessary to defend itself.

A memorandum from you to the President transmitting the suggested reply is at Tab I.

Paul Theis has seen the draft response and concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

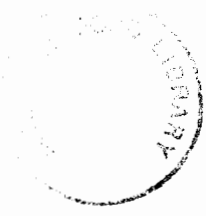
That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 3/3/00

SECRET

SECRET

SAIGON 924



January 25, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

As we are approaching the second anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement of 27 January 1973, I wish to draw your attention to the very grave situation our country is facing as a result of the continuing aggression carried out by North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam.

Indeed during the last two years, and despite the existence of the Paris Agreement, North Vietnam has vastly increased its military capability in the South, stepped up land and population grabbing operations and launched incessant attacks against outposts, bases, district towns which were indisputably under the jurisdiction and control of our Government long before the Paris Agreement was concluded. The recent capture of the Phuoc Long Province last week -- certainly the most massive and the most blatant violations of the Paris Agreement -- clearly shows that the North Vietnamese and their political instrument in the South, the "National Liberation Front," have completely disregarded the Agreement. It is quite evident by now that North Vietnam instead of seeking a political solution within the framework of the Paris Agreement, has again resorted to military adventures to impose their will over South Vietnam.

You are certainly aware, Mr. President, that this continued aggression from North Vietnam constitutes a most serious threat to the survival of South Vietnam as a free and independent country and destroys the chance for the South Vietnamese people to exercise their right of self-determination, a principle for the defense of which more than fifty thousand young Americans as well as hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese had sacrificed their lives. To uphold this principle, our troops have fought gallantly and well, and since the withdrawal of all allied troops they have shown determination and ability to go forward alone to preserve our independence and freedom.

Nevertheless as North Vietnam continues to receive large quantities of war material from Communist countries to pursue their armed aggression against South Vietnam, we must rely on the assistance of the United States

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 3/5/00

of America for the supply of equipment and ammunition necessary to our defense. In most cases we have sustained setbacks solely because of the Communist massive application of fire power and armor; on our side our troops had to count every single shell they fire in order to make the ammunition last.

I understand that some sections of the American public opinion have been induced into believing that too much aid to the Republic of Vietnam would only prolong the war and encourage us not to seek a political solution. The record clearly shows the opposite. Reduction of military assistance to Vietnam by the U.S. Congress has only encouraged the Communists. Thus, they have broken off all the negotiations in Saigon as well as in Paris and systematically rejected all our proposals for general elections. Taking advantage of the scarcity of our supplies and hoping that adequate aid for us will not be forthcoming, they are once again undertaking to destroy our Government structure by force of arms with a view of imposing a solution of their own.

Two years ago we signed the Paris Agreement with the hope that the elaborate structure for global peace would effectively work. We also signed with the great conviction that should the Communists resort to the use of force again we will be provided with adequate means to defend ourselves.

Today I wish to appeal to you to take all necessary action to preserve the Paris Agreement. I am aware of and thankful for the numerous personal efforts and intervention you have made in our behalf since you took over the highest office of your great country. I am also very heartened by your decision last week to seek more supplemental military assistance for the Republic of Vietnam.

I hope that you will be successful in convincing the United States Congress and the American people that the cutbacks and restrictions in aid to the Republic of Vietnam could undermine its very survival and eventually make a mockery of the commitment of the United States to the defense of peace in Vietnam.

I trust that you and the Secretary of State will not spare any effort to preserve the Paris Agreement and to ensure that the countless sacrifices that our two nations have made will not be made in vain.

Sincerely yours,

Nguyen Van Thieu



86 D L

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

February 7, 1975

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR:

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

WILLIAM L. STEARMAN *WLS*

SUBJECT:

President's Reply to Thieu

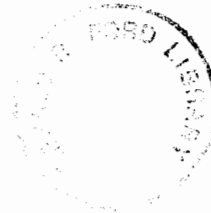
At Tab A is a draft Presidential reply to President Thieu's letter of January 25, 1975 (Tab B). The draft was provided by State. Graham Martin and I made a few minor changes.

Paul Theis has seen the draft response and concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize transmission of the telegram at Tab A.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____



SECRET GDS

KBH 3/3/00

(Date & Time Stamp)

RECEIVED BY:
(Date & Time Stamp)

8M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Operations Center

LDX MESSAGE RECEIPT

S/S #

WHITE HOUSE
SITING ROOM

'75 JAN 29 PM 4:20

LDX MESSAGE NO. 132, CLASSIFICATION SECRET/NODIS, NO. PAGES 2

DESCRIPTION OF MSG. Telegram to Saigon re Letter to President Thieu

FROM: _____ S/S _____
Officer Office Symbol Extension Room Number

LDX TO:	DELIVER TO:	EXTENSION:	ROOM NUMBER:
<u>NSC</u>	<u>MRS. DAVIS</u>		

FOR: CLEARANCE XXXX INFORMATION PER REQUEST COMMENT

REMARKS: _____

VALIDATED FOR TRANSMISSION BY: 2) PL (cm)
Executive Secretariat Officer



SECRET

EA/VN: JREULLINGTON: AOA
1/29/75 EXT. 23221
THE SECRETARY

EA-MR. HABIB NSC-MR. SMYSER | S/S-

IMMEDIATE SAIGON

NODIS

L.C. 11552:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU

REF: SAIGON'S 924

HK
JRS
FCH
URS
S/S-

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO PRESIDENT THIEU TEXT OF FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED. WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS PUBLIC, BUT WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO DOING SO IF PRESIDENT THIEU BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE USEFUL. IN THIS EVENT, THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATED RELEASE IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND SAIGON.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF JANUARY 25 COMES AT A TIME WHEN VIETNAM IS VERY MUCH ON MY MIND AND ON THE MINDS OF MANY OTHER PEOPLE HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM'S FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ABOUT THE HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESSURE.

SECRET
KSH 3/3/00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate your thoughtful letter of January 25. Vietnam is very much on my mind, and I share your concern over North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and over the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks, despite your existing limitations on ammunition and other supplies. I was particularly impressed by the performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.

Even though your offers to reinstitute negotiations have been rejected thus far, they clearly demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war. We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the bloodshed in Vietnam. We strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations and, in the meantime, will make every effort to provide the assistance that is so necessary to your struggle.



8P
Rewrite - 2/14/75
McFarlane/feb

ACTION 817

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciate your thoughtful letter of January 25. Vietnam is very much on my mind, and I share your concern over North Vietnam's failure to observe the most fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement and over the heightened level of North Vietnamese military pressure.

Once again the South Vietnamese people and armed forces are effectively demonstrating their determination to resist Hanoi's attacks, despite your existing limitations on ammunition and other supplies. I was particularly impressed by the performance of your forces at the Phuoc Long province capital and at Ba Den Mountain, where they were overwhelmed only by greatly superior numbers after being cut off from resupply and reinforcement.

Even though your offers to reinstitute negotiations have been rejected thus far, they clearly demonstrate that it is the Communist side -- not the Republic of Vietnam -- which is prolonging the war. We continue to believe that implementation of the Paris Agreement, with direct negotiations between the Vietnamese parties, is the quickest, most appropriate, and most effective way to end the bloodshed in Vietnam. We strongly support your efforts to resume negotiations and, in the meantime, will make every effort to provide the assistance that is so necessary to your struggle.



SECRETACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: Reply to a Letter to You From
South Vietnamese President Thieu

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu has written you (Tab B) citing his concern over the recent step-up in North Vietnamese attacks, expressing thanks for your personal efforts in seeking supplemental aid for South Vietnam and asking that you take all action necessary to preserve the Paris Agreement.

At Tab A is a draft reply from you to President Thieu. Your reply thanks him for his letter, indicates that you share his concern over the recent escalation of military activity, conveys your praise for the gallant performance of South Vietnam's military forces, and states your intention to do everything within your means to provide South Vietnam with the supplies necessary to defend itself.

Paul Theis has seen the draft response and concurs.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the draft response at Tab A.



DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KSH, NARA, Date 2/3/00

SECRET

BS:nm:2/14/75

NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD			LOG NBR	INITIAL ACTION O
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR		
27	27	19			7500817	

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

TO: PRES _____ FROM: Steaman REFERENCE: _____ CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE

KISSINGER X COLBY, W _____ S/S _____ UNCLAS LOG IN/OUT

SCOWCROFT X SCHLESINGER, J _____ OTHER _____ LOU NO FORN NODIS

DAVIS _____ ST EX SEC _____ C EYES ONLY EXDIS

S CODEWORD

TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: Draft for reply to Ltr from Pres Thieu of South Vietnam re continued US assistance

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION	ACTION	INFO	REC CY FOR	ACTION REQUIRED
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT				MEMO FOR HAK (_____)
STAFF SECRETARY				MEMO FOR PRES (_____)
FAR EAST <u>Steama</u>			<u>X</u>	REPLY FOR (_____)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA				APPROPRIATE ACTION (_____)
MID EAST / NO. AFRICA / SO. ASIA				MEMO _____ TO _____ (_____)
EUROPE / CANADA				RECOMMENDATIONS (_____)
LATIN AMERICA				JOINT MEMO (_____)
UNITED NATIONS				REFER TO _____ FOR: _____ (_____)
ECONOMIC				ANY ACTION NECESSARY? (_____)
SCIENTIFIC				CONCURRENCE (_____)
PROGRAM ANALYSIS				DUE DATE: _____
NSC PLANNING				COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)
CONGRESSIONAL				
OCEANS POLICY				
INTELLIGENCE			<u>X</u>	

SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY TO
2/7		Scowcroft	X	Decision (2/18)	
2/8		Scowcroft	S	further action per Janka note (2/18)	
2/10		Scowcroft	X	Pres to sign Ltr to Thieu (2/19)	
2/17		NSC/S		Pres sigd ltr to Thieu	
2/20		Scowcroft	X	Decision (2/25)	
2/24		NSC/S		Scowcroft approved memo	
2/24		HAK	X	Pres to sign ltr to Thieu (2/26)	
2/24			C	Pres sigd ltr to Thieu	
2/24		STATE	C	for dispatch per DAVIS	

DISPATCH STATE Form 2/24

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: Leonard Form 2/24

NOTIFY _____ & DATE _____ BY _____

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: _____

CROSS REF W/ _____

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: X FOLDER: _____

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F'D BY 2/25/75

CRT ID: _____ SA SF

OPEN TH HP NS

CLOSE _____ WH EP

PAY 25 DY



Department of State

SECRET

N00451

TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 STATE 042065

ORIGIN HOUS-00

INFO OCT-01 /001 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
 APPROVED BY EA:K.H. MILLER
 EA/YN:RHWENZEL
 S/S- WMLUERS

044573

O 252352Z FEB 75 ZFF4
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ STATE 042065

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO PRESIDENT THIEU THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED. WE DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS PUBLIC.

2. BEGIN TEXT: (DATED) FEBRUARY 24, 1975

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTERS OF JANUARY 24 AND 25 COME AT A TIME WHEN VIETNAM IS VERY MUCH ON MY MIND AND ON THE MINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT NORTH VIETNAM'S FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ABOUT THE HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESSURE. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO

SECRET

KOH 3/300

SECRET



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 042465

PRESS FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

ONCE AGAIN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES ARE EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATING THEIR DETERMINATION TO RESIST

HANOI'S ATTACKS. DESPITE YOUR EXISTING LIMITATIONS ON AMMUNITION AND OTHER SUPPLIES, I WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR FORCES AT THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL AND AT BA DEN MOUNTAIN, WHERE THEY WERE OVERWHELMED ONLY BY GREATLY SUPERIOR NUMBERS AFTER BEING CUT OFF FROM RESUPPLY AND REINFORCEMENT.

EVEN THOUGH YOUR OFFERS TO REINSTITUTE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN REJECTED THUS FAR, THEY CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS THE COMMUNIST SIDE -- NOT THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM -- WHICH IS PROLONGING THE WAR. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, WITH DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES, IS THE QUICKEST, MOST APPROPRIATE, AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO END THE BLOODSHED IN VIETNAM. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE THAT IS SO NECESSARY TO YOUR STRUGGLE UNTIL PEACE COMES.

THE PATH TO PEACE IS NEVER EASY. IT HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY LONG AND DIFFICULT IN VIETNAM. BUT I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT IF WE PERSIST WE WILL YET REACH OUR OBJECTIVE OF A FAIR PEACE, A LASTING PEACE AND A PEACE WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE WILL OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE -- JUSTIFYING THE SACRIFICES OF THE VIETNAMESE AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

END TEXT. KISSINGER



SECRET

*Released by Lit Group
6:15 pm 2/22/75
Thieu Thien, Embassy*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 22, 1975



Dear President Thieu:

The current North Vietnamese offensive against your country is profoundly disturbing and personally anguishing. It is my view that Hanoi's attack represents nothing less than an abrogation by force of the Paris Agreement.

This turn of events bears the most severe consequences for both our nations. For you and your countrymen it is a time of supreme sacrifice which will determine the very fate of your nation. I am confident that under your leadership the armed forces and people of the Republic of Vietnam will continue their tenacious defense against this new aggression. I am equally confident that given additional external support, you will prevail in your struggle for self-determination.

As for the United States, the issue is no less critical. By its action, Hanoi is again seeking to undermine all that we have sought to achieve at enormous cost over the past ten years. Concurrently, at stake is America's resolve to support a friend who is being attacked by heavily armed forces in total violation of a solemn international agreement.

I, for my part, am determined that America shall stand firmly behind the Republic of Vietnam at this crucial hour. With a view to honoring the responsibilities of the United States in this situation, I am following developments with the closest attention and am consulting on an urgent basis with my advisors on actions which the situation may require and the law permit.

With regard to the provision of adequate military assistance to your armed forces, you can be sure that I shall bend every effort to meet your material needs on the battlefield.

In closing, I wish to repeat my continued high respect for your resolve and for the constancy and courage of your people.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Fuld

His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the
Republic of Vietnam
Saigon





NGUYEN VAN THIEU
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam

Saigon, March 25, 1975

Dear Mr. President,

I wish to thank You for Your kind letter of March 22nd, 1975.

As I am writing to You, the military situation in South Viet-Nam is very grave and is growing worse by the hour.

The serious disequilibrium in the balance of forces in favor of the North Vietnamese as well as their strategic advantages, accumulated over the past two years, have led to the present critical situation, especially in MRI and II, as you have already known. Heavy pressures are also being exerted on all the rest of our national territory, and Saigon itself is threatened.

It has become evident that it would be extremely difficult for us to contain the advance of the Communist forces and to hold the line in order to push back the invaders.

Hanoi's intention to use the Paris Agreement for a military take over of South Viet-Nam was well known to us at

...

His Excellency Gerald D. Ford
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C., USA

the very time of negotiating the Paris Agreement. You may recall that we signed it, not because we credulously believed in the enemy's goodwill, but because we were certain of the common resolution of our two governments to make the Agreement work.

As evidence of that resolution, firm pledges were then given to us that the United States will retaliate swiftly and vigorously to any violation of the Agreement by the enemy and will provide the Republic of Viet-Nam with adequate military and economic assistance.

We consider those pledges the most important guarantees of the Paris Agreement; those pledges have now become the most crucial ones to our survival.

Mr. President,

At this critical hour when the fate of the free South Viet-Nam is at stake and when the horror of the enemy's offensive is descending upon the entire population of South Viet-Nam, I earnestly request that you take two following necessary actions :

- To immediately order a brief but intensive B-52 air strike against enemy's concentration of forces and logistic bases within South Viet-Nam, with intensity comparable to what was done in the most critical hour of 1972, and

- To urgently provide us with necessary means to contain and repel the offensive.

...

Only with these two actions can we stop North Viet-Nam from conquering South Viet-Nam by force in defiance of the Paris Agreement; only with these two actions can we prevent them from confronting us with an irreparable situation and a fait accompli.

Mr. President,

Once again, I wish to appeal to You, to the credibility of American foreign policy, and especially, to the Conscience of America.

I am heartened that upon assuming the Presidency, You were prompt to renew to us the assurance of the continuity of American foreign policy and the validity of its existing commitments. I am gratified for Your determination to honor these commitments in full in Your administration. As You so rightly noted, these assurances are particularly relevant to the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Generations of South Vietnamese who will be living free from the horror of North Viet-Nam's domination will be indebted to Your prompt actions, and to the steadfastness of the great people of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. F.', is written over two parallel horizontal lines that serve as a signature line.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SAIGON

To: General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs

Enclosed is original signed copy of
President Thieu's letter to President Ford
the text of which was transmitted to
you by Martin Channel.



DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4.

Same as MR 94-53, #11

By KBH, NARA, Date 1/24/97

~~SECRET~~

Date: March 27, 1975

W. J. Lehmann
W. J. Lehmann

Deputy Chief of Mission

W.J. Lehmann, Charge' d'Affaires ad interim
American Embassy
Saigon, Republic of Viet-Nam

VIA AIR POUCH

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

Lt. General Brent Scowcroft
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C.

REGISTERED

REGISTRY NUMBER

OFFICE SYMBOL

No. 835699

DCM

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

* GPO : 1967 O-261-523

TO BE AFFIXED TO COVER

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

To be Delivered by
Amb Martin

12 GVM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1975



Dear Mr. President:

I am very much aware of the difficult times you are now experiencing. I have asked Ambassador Martin to convey to you my admiration for your determination, your resolution and courage. I am convinced that in the end the South Vietnamese people, under your leadership, will be successful in their fight to preserve their independence and free institutions.

I very much regret that events over the last twelve months -- events which neither of us could completely control -- resulted in a diminution of the American material support which your government had fully expected to receive. While I deeply regret the consequent military redeployments you felt compelled to take, I fully understand the reasons for these actions to reduce extended lines of communication and re-supply and permit a more effective concentration of your military forces to defend the vital areas.

The essential problem now is to determine with precision the actions we both may take to present the best prospects for the future. Although you may have received a rather gloomy assessment of American public and Congressional attitudes on the prospects for adequate amounts of economic and military aid, I think the situation has now changed considerably. Your military redeployments portrayed the actual realities of the current situation in Vietnam far more graphically than words. Consequently, there is a

growing awareness in this country of your urgent need for additional aid in adequate amounts.

You may rest assured that we will make every effort to secure from the Congress adequate amounts of aid for South Vietnam. We fully realize that this must be done promptly.

To insure that I am fully and completely informed and that our military aid requests are specifically designed to meet your actual current needs, I am asking your old friend, General Fred Weyand, to accompany Ambassador Martin on his return to Saigon. I am certain that you will review the current situation with him with complete candor and inform him fully on those items you and your military advisors believe to be the most crucial at this time.

I am also aware that some members of your staff have speculated from time to time that American interests elsewhere have lessened the interest of the United States in Vietnam. Ambassador Martin informs me that you understand this could not possibly be true since the way we discharge our commitment to the Republic of Vietnam inevitably affects the credibility of American interests everywhere. Therefore, our firm intention remains to help insure the Republic of Vietnam's economic viability and its capability to defend its own freedom and institutions.

Achievement of these aims will require maximum efforts on both sides. It also requires that we remain in close and intimate communication. I have instructed Ambassador Martin to forward directly for my attention any communications which you think necessary.

Our peoples have both surmounted even more difficult times in the past. You and your people may be assured



of my continued firm support and of my resolve to do everything I can to help the Republic of Vietnam. Once again, I am confident that our joint endeavors will be successful.

With my warmest personal good wishes.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Ford

His Excellency
Nguyen Van Thieu
President of the Republic
of Vietnam
Saigon

