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1/20 THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON NOTE FOR: Calle, Troio FROM RON NESSEN The DOS Stoned Know The White Hause Niew. RHN.

S. FUROLIBRAD

Q Do you know what Ron Nessen meant yesterday when he said that the Panama Canal has a usable life of between thirty and fifty years?

A A usable life between thirty and fifty years?

Q Or words to that effect.

A I think you would have to ask Mr. Nessen what he meant, George. I don't know.

Q Well, putting that aside --

Does the Administration or the Department believe that the utility of the present Panama Canal will diminish as time goes by?

A I don't think that is the case, no.

I am sure that is not the case.

Q Do you have anything further to say on the North Vietnamese note that was delivered to us?

And if you don't on that subject, can you comment on the North Vietnamese statements of the last few days -- again insisting on the \$3.25 billion in aid? A I do not really have anything further to

