

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**PARTICIPANTS:** His Excellency Tran Kim Phuong, Ambassador of the Republic of Vietnam

President Gerald R. Ford  
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

**DATE AND TIME** August 9, 1974 - 7:15 p.m.

**PLACE** Oval Office  
The White House

Ambassador Phuong: Let me give you my congratulations on behalf of my country.

President Ford: Thank you. And please give President Thieu my best wishes.

Secretary Kissinger: I told Ambassador Phuong that the fact he is one of the few you are seeing individually is a symbol of our concern for you.

Ambassador Phuong: I am very grateful to see that South Vietnam still has such a relationship with the United States.

[The press was admitted for photos.]

Secretary Kissinger: The Ambassador and I went through many negotiations together.

President Ford: Were you in all of them?

Ambassador Phuong: In all but the last one. In Paris.

~~SECRET~~/NODIS/XGDS

~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER



DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines  
By LLK : NARA Date 1/12/00

Secretary Kissinger: I had to negotiate with the North Vietnamese in the day and with the South Vietnamese at night. The press reports said I was out with the girls at night, but it wasn't true.

President Ford: Not with the girls? At least not since you've been married. How long did that last?

Secretary Kissinger: About four months, in phases.

President Ford: I went to the signing. Secretary Rodgers took us along. I have a pen the Secretary gave me which was used in the signing. I have it framed.

[The press was dismissed.]

I assure you we will continue our policies and will try to continue them effectively. I know you have problems. Heavy military activity has been going on, especially the last three days. I was very disappointed in the \$1 billion cut to \$700 million. We asked for \$1.4. At last we beat Riegle who wanted it cut to \$375 million. But \$700 million is not enough.

Ambassador Phuong: It is not. With prices going up.

President Ford: Next week I hope to make personal contacts in the Senate to convince them the House figure is too low.

Secretary Kissinger: If you could turn McClellan around, that would make a big difference.

Ambassador Phuong: Our concern is that Hanoi could read this as a signal of your disinterest and increase its activity. Now you are meeting with the Soviet Union, maybe there is some way to get them to cut their supplies to North Vietnam. If they continue and we can't get supplies from the United States, it would be very serious.

President Ford: Can we get help from Humphrey?

Secretary Kissinger: He supports economic more than military aid.

Ambassador Phuong: He came back from his trip there very impressed. There was a very serious mark-up in the House -- it was only \$450 million for Vietnam.



Secretary Kissinger: It is disgraceful, Mr. President, for a lousy \$200 million to let Vietnam go down the drain, after 50,000 Americans died there.

President Ford: We will do our best. Give President Thieu my best and my admiration to Thieu. We are proud of our relationship, and I assure you and the President that we will do our best to continue it.



His Excellency Tran Kim PHUONG

P Ford / Andre Phuong / HAK

9 Aug 74 7:15 - 7:

Ph Congrats on behalf of my country

P Please give Thieu my best.

K I told Com that fact to one of five you are  
saying is nothing of our concern for you

Ph I am very grateful to see that SVN is still has  
such a relationship w/ US

(Press)

V The Arab + Soviet then many negotiator

P were you in all

Ph In all but last - in Paris

K I had to negotiate w/ V in day + SVN at night

P <sup>Reports said w/ 6 goals</sup> ~~but~~ not any since inaction.  
How long did that last?

K about 4 mos in phase.

P I went to signing. Rogers took us. I have from Seng

Personal found on which used in signing. Share it Personal.

I assume you will continue our policies &  
try to continue them effectively. I know you have  
jobs & activity going up last 3 days. Disappointed  
I had cut to 700 mil - we asked 1.4. At least  
we had 1.4 who want cut to 375. 1.4 not  
enough

Ph It not. Prices going up.

P Wpt mark I hope to make personal contacts in  
Smet to convince them House too low.

K If you could turn the Goldham account around.

Ph Hanoi could read this as a signal of desperation  
and increase its activity. Now you are meeting  
w/ SO, maybe there is some way to get them  
to cut supplies to NVN. If they continue & we  
cant get supplies from US, would be very serious

P Can not get help from HAH

K Economic more than military



Ph #1 come back for trip that very surprised.  
Very serious number on horse - only 450 per  
UN

K Disappointed Mr P, for a long 200 to let V. K. down  
chain

P We will do our best  
Give them my best very admittance  
to them.  
We proud of our relationship

