MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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.
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.
Dr. Card in behalf of my company
Please give T.H. my best,
I understand that you are... anything can happen for you.
I very much appreciate to see that SVN is still the... relationship
(Please)

The past. I want them... negotiation.
Please your in all,

For all that last - in Paris

...to your sister, U.S. in Embassy, S.V.N. at night.
Please don't me. Let's mind.

How long did that last?

I am 4 months in Paris.

I want to say... Rogers took on. I know your... mind.

We have not meet of your... people to continue them effectively. I know you... prob. and activity going up last 7 days. I was... 2, as we... 3, at least

We have... 375. I did not through

If not. It's going up.

Hope much of hope to make personal contacts in... some to lessen this number. The

If you could turn the Gekker around.

I would need this as a subject of discussion and increase its activity. Now you are many

25, maybe there is some way to get them... to send supplies to N.H. If they continue we... could get supplies from U.S., would be very

Can we get help from H.H.

Especially more than military
Ph the concentrates from 124 and very singular. Very serious numbers in house — only 450/a.

I expected Mr. from leaving 200 to let children

I will do one last

Give this my last very all

To Thee.

We proved your relationship