MEETING WITH GRAHAM A. MARTIN,
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Friday, September 13, 1974
11:30 a.m. (15 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE
To demonstrate your interest in Vietnam and to convey to
President Thieu a message of support.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS
A. Background: Recent Congressional cuts in U.S. assistance
to South Vietnam undermine South Vietnamese confidence
in continued U.S. support and in South Vietnam's ability to
resist Communist pressures. Your meeting with Ambas­
sador Martin and your conveying through him assurances
of our support to President Thieu can help bolster South
Vietnamese confidence at a critical time. Ambassador
Martin will want to express his own concerns about inade­
quate aid levels; the need to minimize Defense charges
against military assistance to Vietnam; and the necessity
of an energetic campaign to inform the Congress about
Vietnam.

B. Participants: Graham Martin and Secretary Kissinger.

C. Press Arrangements: Press photo session. Meeting to
be announced.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By: [Signature]
Date: [Date]
Expires: [Expires]

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III. TALKING POINTS

1. Recent Congressional cuts in Vietnam aid levels must be discouraging to the South Vietnamese.

2. Please give President Thieu my personal assurance that this Administration will do everything possible to provide adequate military and economic assistance to his country.

3. I met with Congressional leaders yesterday morning, and I am confident that they fully understand the importance I attach to meeting our commitments in Vietnam.

4. We will be working closely with Congress in the coming months to get the best possible bills.

5. How do you assess the present situation in Vietnam? What are your main problems there?

6. I understand that you have recently met with a number of people on the Hill, as well as with newsmen and civic leaders. Based on your impressions this trip, what additional things can we do here to help you in Saigon?