

Department of State

PP RUEHC DE RUEAIIA 0713 0240427 ZNY SSSSS P 240422Z JAN 69 FM SAIGON TO RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE RUEACR/OSD ZEN/WHITE HOUSE BT

PERSEC. 3.3(b)(1)

06426

SECRET 240330Z JAN 69

PRIORITY NODIS BUTTERCUP

FM AMB. BUNKER 214

TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EXCLUSIVE FOR MR. KISSINGER

SECSTATE, EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY ROGERS

SECDEF, EXCLUSIVE FOR SECRETARY LAIRD

DIRECTOR CIA, EXCLUSIVE FOR MR. HELMS

1. MID-MORNING 23 JANUARY "JEANNE" TELEPHONED TO SAY THAT SHE HAD NO REPEAT NO RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONS SINCE SUCH QUESTIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THEIR PROPOSAL. CONCERNING MUOI HAI, SHE SAID THAT WE SOULD CHECK WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE FOR INFORMATION ON HIM, AS THEY WOULD KNOW HIS STATUS. WHEN SHE ASKED IF WE AGREED WITH THEIR PROPOSAL AND WOULD WE RESPOND TO IT, SHE WAS TOLD TO CALL BACK THE SAME AFTERNOON. SHE SAID SHE COULD NOT DO THIS AND INSTEAD WOULD CALL MORNING 24 JANUARY. 24 JANUARY.

2. COMMENT: HER REFERENCE TO POLICE PROBABLY MEANS, AS WE EARLIER ASSUMED, THAT OTHER SIDE IS WELL AWARE THAT MUOI

HAI IS DEAD.

3. SINCE I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD GET BOGGED DOWN AT THIS POINT IN DETAILS AND POSSIBLY THWART AN AUTHENTIC

AT THIS POINT IN DETAILS AND POSSIBLY THWART AN AUTHENTIC EFFORT TO EXCHANGE PRISONERS, WHEN SHE CALLS ON 24 JANUARY, WE PLAN TO PASS HER FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

A. WE GET MANY CALLS AND OFFERS FROM DISHONEST PEOPLE OFFERING TO RELEASE AMERICAN PRISONERS, THERE-FORE, OUR QUESTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO DETERMINE IF WE ARE IN FACT TALKING TO A RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRONT. WE KNOW THE IDENTITY OF TU ANH AND THE OTHERS AND ANY RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FRONT WOULD KNOW THE SAME THING. OUR QUESTION CONCERNING MUOI HAI SIMPLY MEANT THAT WE HAD NO IDEA WHO HE IS. MUOI HAI SIMPLY MEANT THAT WE HAD NO IDEA WHO HE IS.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

JMR

07-10/1 per sec. 3.3(b)(1) per ltr. 5/17/2010

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NARA, Date 6/2/2010



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B. AS TO YOUR PROPOSAL, WE AGAIN WISH TO REPEAT THAT WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS AND WE ARE EXAMINING THE MATTER. SINCE THE FRONT HAS REQUESTED FOUR INDIVIDUALS BY NAME, INTEND TO REQUEST THAT CERTAIN AMERICANS ALSO BY NAME BE RELEASED IN EXCHANGE. ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO
WE GAVE TU ANH A LIST OF TEN AMERICAN' PRISONERS WHOM
WE WANTED EXCHANGED, BUT WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ANY
RESPONSE TO THAT REQUEST.

C. WE CONSIDER THIS MATTER OF PRISONER EXCHANGES
IMPORTANT AND DELICATE. TO WORK OUT DETAILS WE
BELIEVE THAT FACE TO FACE CONTACT IS NECESSARY TO

FURTHER DISCUSS THE ACTUAL EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

IF YOUR SIDE IS AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH A
MEETING WE SHALL PROPOSE A TIME AND PLACE FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION. WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL
MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD THE PRIVACY AND SECURITY

OF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

4. IF "JEANNE" ACCEPTS OUR OFFER FOR A FACE TO FACE MEETING WE WILL GO TO THE MEETING PREPARED TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR RELEASING TEN AMERICANS FOR FOUR FRONT REPRESENTATIVES. NEED IMMEDIATELY, THEREFORE, UPDATED LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED

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PER SEC. 3.3(b)(1)

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