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FBIS 77 (SEE 43)

DRV EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE 'STATEMENT'

MOSCOW IN ENGLISH TO THE UNITED KINGDOM 1900 GMT 2 MAY 68 L

(TEXT) THE NORTH VIETNAM EMBASSY IN THE LAOTIAN CAPITAL HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH INDONESIA'S PROPOSAL THAT THE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES BE HELD ON AN INDONESIAN CRUISER. INDONESIA MADE ITS PROPOSAL IN NOTES SENT TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

A NORTH VIETNAM EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN THE LAOTIAN CAPITAL DESCRIBED THE INDONESIAN INITIATIVE AS UNACCEPTABLE TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT A MEETING ON BOARD A SHIP WOULD RULE OUT THE PARTICIPATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND IT WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THE PROPER COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR GIVE THE PRESS A CHANCE TO COVER THE EVENTS. HE REPEATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT STILL BELIEVES THAT THE MOST SUITABLE CONTACT SITE WOULD BE PHNOM PENH OR WARSAW. THE UNITED STATES HAS REJECTED BOTH OF THESE CAPITALS.

THE NORTH VIETNAM DIPLOMAT POINTED OUT THAT BY SETTING ONE PRELIMINARY CONDITION AFTER THE OTHER, WASHINGTON IS DELAYING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS, SINCE IT IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING THE WAR. WHEN NORTH VIETNAM HAD SUGGESTED THE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS, IT PROPOSED DISCUSSING WITH THE UNITED STATES A COMPLETE STOP TO THE AMERICAN RAIDS AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD PEACE TALKS.

2 MAY 2045Z AL/CT