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FROM ARTHUR MCCAFFERTY.
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE WHT9386

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JULY 4, 1967

FOLLOWING IS AN INTERESTING CABLE FROM PARIS COMMENTING ON
KOSYGIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE GENERAL
(PARIS, 74).

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AFTER LEAVING THE ELYSEE ON JULY 1
FOLLOWING TWO HOURS OF CONVERSATION AND LUNCH WITH GENERAL DE
GAULLE, KOSYGIN MET THE PRESS IN A JOVIAL MOOD. BANTER ASIDE,
HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE IN THE NEAR EAST IS "SURELY AND
CLEARLY" THE BUSINESS OF THE UN;

(B) FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE GOOD AND IT IS GOOD TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TOGETHER;

(C) PEACE IN VIETNAM DEPENDS ON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND
GOVERNMENT (FOR WHICH REASON KOSYGIN COULD NOT SAY WHETHER GLASSBORO
AND ELYSEE TALKS WOULD LEAD TO DEESCALATION OF THE WAR).
ONLY THE VIETNAMESE COMRADES CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM FOR THEY
ARE DOING THE FIGHTING.

(D) QUESTION OF FOUR-POWER SUMMIT MEETING WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT
THE MEETING.

COMMENT: SOME CORRESPONDENTS WERE STRUCK BY THE WAY IN WHICH
KOSYGIN CHOSE TO RESPOND TO (C) AND (D), SPECULATING THAT
BOTH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A REPUDIATION OF DEGAULLE, WHO
AT LEAST WOULD HAVE SAID "PEACE DEPENDS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL".

HAROLD KING, A WELL-CONNECTED GAULLIST CORRESPONDENT FROM
REUTERS, HEARD THAT THE DEGAULLE-KOSYGIN MEETING HAD BEEN
"GLOOMY" AND THAT KOSYGIN LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE SOVIETS,
UNLIKE THE GENERAL, WERE NOT OPPOSED TO THE US PRESENCE IN
VIETNAM; KOSYGIN LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS HOPING FOR
A BIT OF DE-ESCALATION ON THE PART OF THE US.

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