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74
Pres. file
Wednesday, October 4, 1967 -- 6:10 p.m.

Mr. President:

On the basis of this piece of monkey business, Sec. Rusk recommends no meeting until we have the follow-on report referred to in the last sentence.

Sec. Rusk and Sec. McNamara will hold themselves available; and you can either have a brief session tonight at, say, 7:00 p.m. to take stock of this affair; or, leave it over until morning.

W. W. Rostow

Short meeting at 7:00 p.m. tonight _____

Hold till morning _____

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4
BY 94-403
By 48, NARA, Date 10-24-95

WWRostow:rlh

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Kissinger/Read Telecons October 4, 4:15 p.m.

M called K to say that M had taken the communication received by K in the mail this morning for confirmation of paragraph (b). Bo had read the document and said that he had still not received word from Hanoi about the accuracy of M and A's understanding of his July talk with Pham Van Dong, so Bo could not comment at this time on the formulation eventualities (b) and (c).

Bo did confirm the accuracy of the opening paragraph of the communication, the formulation of eventuality of (a) and the paragraph of description of eventuality (a), except Bo said he had not used the words "solemn engagement". M took strong exception with Bo, saying that M's own notes and clear recollection of their October 3 conversation on this point were very clear. M said to Bo that if he (M) was capable of such misunderstanding M's usefulness was at an end. Bo energetically denied that M's utility was at an end and expressed the view that the channel was of definite continuing utility. Bo and M discussed what phrase should be used in place of "solemn engagement" without reaching a firm conclusion.

When M reported the above conversation to K, K said that he was aware of M's meticulous care in keeping notes of conversations and that in light of this fact Bo's backing away from the phrase "solemn engagement" would be viewed here as a serious substantive change. K told M that he should understand that this change will make it extremely difficult for us to take actions based on communications in this channel, and it was K's personal view that it would have been better to receive no communication than one in which a key point had been retracted.

4:30 p.m.

M called K to say he had phoned Bo with K's initial reaction as reported above, and Bo had instructed M to come over to see Bo immediately. K asked M in addition to the

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-405

By WJ, NARA, Date 3-29-95

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point stated above to confirm with Bo tonight K's understanding that the formulation of eventuality (a) and the part of the explanation of eventuality (a) which Bo had confirmed could be interpreted to mean that a US accredited person could meet with Bo prior to cessation of bombing if a decision on cessation had been made and communicated to the DRV. K asked M to make Bo understand that there must be no jockeying for position on these matters at this time in view of the seriousness with which we view the changes noted above. K expects to hear from M on his present meeting with Bo by 6:30 p.m.