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~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/PENNSYLVANIA~~

Friday, October 27, 1967
12:35 p.m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

This compilation of North Vietnamese (DRV) rejections of direct contact indicates a clear policy -- if nothing else.

W. W. Rostow

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

WWRostow:rlm

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By kg, NARA, Date 11-6-91

Specific Rejections by the DRV of Opportunities
to Talk with US representative during course of
PENNSYLVANIA Channel

4/4a

- August 21, 1967 - Hanoi rejects visa application by intermediaries.
- August 31, 1967 - Hanoi rejects visa denial appeal by intermediaries.
- September 7, 1967 - DRV Rep requests authority to see US validated person.
- September 11, 1967 - DRV message: "It is only after the unconditional stopping of bombing and all other acts of war, that it would be possible to engage in conversations."
- September 13, 1967 - DRV Rep said a direct meeting with US validated person "cannot take place" because of the continuing threat to bomb Hanoi."
- September 20, 1967 - DRV Rep turned down intermediaries' invitation to meet US validated person.
- September 21, 1967 - DRV Rep said he could see private Americans at his discretion, but he could not see any American who spoke for the USG or reported directly to the USG without Hanoi authorization.
- September 23, 1967 - DRV message: "... at the moment when US is increasing its escalation, it was not possible for the DRV Rep to see (the US validated person)".
- September 25, 1967 - DRV Rep said Prime Minister Pham Van Dong had made clear there could be no formal discussions between the US and the DRV as long as any level of bombing continued in the North. He said that he did not know if preliminary discussions with a US validated person fell under such prohibition and would seek clarification from Hanoi.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 94-451

By CB, NARA, Date 3-30-95

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September 30, 1967 - DRV Rep said Hanoi had instructed him not to talk directly to a US validated person even in a preliminary way because "too much had happened since July".

October 2, 1967 - DRV approved message: "If the US really wished to talk, let them stop first without conditions the bombardment of the territory of the DRV."

October 4, 1967 - DRV Rep denied having said that Trinh's January 28 statement constituted a "solemn engagement" to talk after the unconditional end of bombing.

October 4, 1967 - DRV message to intermediaries: "If the US really wants to talk it is necessary first to stop without conditions the bombing and all other acts of war against the DRV."

October 17, 1967 - DRV message: "At a time when the US continues escalation we can neither receive (the US validated person) nor comment on the American views transmitted through this channel. The position of the government of the DRV is perfectly clear. It is only when the US has ceased without condition the bombardments that talks can take place."

October 20, 1967 - DRV Reps to intermediaries: "There is nothing new to say. The situation is worsening. There is no reason to talk again. Our position is perfectly clear. We stand on the Trinh interview with Burchett of January 28."

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