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FROM WALT ROSTOW
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SUNDAY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM WALT ROSTOW

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PROPOSED STATEMENT YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE ON THE BATTLE AT HUE, INCLUDING A PLEDGE TO HELP RESTORE THE ANCIENT CAPITAL AND CULTURAL CENTER. STATE APPROVES AND IT INCORPORATES AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S IDEAS.

BUNKER NOTES HOWEVER THAT FIGHTING CONTINUES IN ONE SMALL AREA. HE ALSO REPORTS THAT THIEU AND KY ARE VISITING HUE TODAY. HE URGED THAT THIS STATEMENT NOT REPEAT NOT BE ISSUED HERE UNTIL THIEU AND KY HAVE RETURNED AND UNTIL WE GET WORD FROM THE MISSION THAT HUE HAS BEEN FULLY CLEARED. BUNKER THINKS THIS KIND OF STATEMENT WOULD THEN BE QUOTE PARTICULARLY TIMELY. UNQUOTE.

BEGIN TEXT:

TODAY A GALLANT YET TRAGIC VICTORY WAS WON IN THE CITY OF HUE.

THE BRAVERY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND UNITED STATES FORCES WHO RE-TOOK THE ANCIENT CITADEL IN BITTER FIGHTING WAS IN THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF MILITARY VALOR.

IT WAS A VICTORY BECAUSE WE KNOW THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE ENEMY ATTACHED TO HOLDING HUE--AN IMPORTANCE UNDERLINED BY THE INCREDIBLE BRUTALITY AND TERROR AGAINST CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND AN INNOCENT POPULACE WHICH ACCOMPANIED THEIR ATTACK ON A SACRED CITY AT A SACRED TIME.

IT WAS TRAGIC BECAUSE SO MUCH OF A BEAUTIFUL CITY, RICH IN HISTORY AND HERITAGE, HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

WE AMERICANS ARE NOW ENGAGED WITH THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN REPAIRING AND RESTORING THE DAMAGE INFLECTED THROUGHOUT VIET-NAM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP IN HEALING THE SCARS OF THE TET ATTACK. TODAY, WE WANT PARTICULARLY TO PLEDGE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM THAT TOGETHER WE WILL REBUILD THE ANCIENT CITY OF HUE, AND THAT THE HISTORY AND TRADITION OF THIS CITY WILL BE THE MORE HONORED AND CHERISHED BY THE FACT THAT BRAVE MEN FOUGHT AND DIED TO MAKE IT A CITADEL OF FREEDOM AND NOT OF TERROR. (END TEXT)

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White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By Ang, NARA, Date 6/25/90

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