

UNCLASSIFIED BANGKOK 012120/01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9849

INFO RUFHXS / ASFAN COLLECTIVE

RUEHHK / AMCONSUL HONG KONG 9739

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BANGKOK 12120

DEPARTMENT PASS FAA

F.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: FAIR, PREF, VM

SUBJECT: VIETNAM REQUESTS REESTABLISHMENT OF SAIGON FLIGHT
INFORMATION REGION (FIR)

REF: 92 BANGKOK 42744

1. SUMMARY: THE SRV HAS REITERATED REPEATED REQUEST FOR USG SUPPORT FOR THE RETURN OF PARTS OF THE HO CHI MINH FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR), WITH REQUEST THIS TIME MADE TO THE UPCOMING THIRD ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING. AREAS IN QUESTION WERE ALLOCATED IN 1975 TO SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND HONG KONG AT A TIME WHEN THE SRV DID NOT HAVE THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO OPERATE THEM. THE SRV ASSERTS THAT IT NOW HAS IMPROVED TECHNICAL CAPABILITY, SUFFICIENT TO OPERATE THE ENTIRE FIR, AND THAT RETURN OF THOSE PORTIONS OF THE FIR TO THE VIETNAMESE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRAFFIC SAFETY IN THE REGION. END SUMMARY

2. ON MARCH 24 THE SPV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK FORWARDED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUYEN MANH CAM, ASKING THAT IT BE CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

QUOTE:

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT MY COMPLIMENTS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND HAVE THE HONOR TO BRING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTICE THE FOLLOWING URGENT MATTER:

IN SEPTEMBER 1992, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SENT ITS NOTE NO 205/NG-IPOT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S MINISTRY STATING VIETNAM'S TECHNICAL CAPABILITY AND LEGAL BASIS TO RESUME EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HO CHI MINH FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). THE THIRD ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING TO BE CONVENED IN APRIL AND MAY 1993 THAT YOUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND WILL DECIDE THE MATTER.

THE HO CHI MINH (FORMERLY SAIGON) FIR WAS ESTABLISHED

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ACCORDING TO A DECISION BY THE MIDDLE EAST - SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING (ROME, 1959), AND REAFFIRMED AT THE FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING (SINGAPORE, 1983).

IN APRIL 1975, THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED PARTS OF THE OCEANIC PORTION OF THE HO CHI MINH FIR TO THAILAND, SINGAPORE, AND HONGKONG'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY WHEN VIETNAM, BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL REASONS, WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES.

WITH ICAO TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY AND UNDP ASSISTANCE, THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS IN PURCHASING AND INSTALLING TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO MEET ICAO STANDARDS ON FIR MANAGEMENT. AS A RESULT, VIETNAM IS NOW TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVELY MANAGING THE HOCHIMINH FIR.

WITH ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND PRESENT TECHNICAL CAPABILITY, VIETNAM IS NOW ABLE TO PROVIDE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES TO FLIGHTS THROUGH THE HO CHI MINH FIR MOST SAFELY, EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR TRAFFIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE FULL RESUMPTION OF THE HO CHI MINH FIR BY VIETNAM CONFORMS TO INTERNATIONAL LAWS ON CIVIL AVIATION AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY, TO ICAO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETINGS AS WELL AS THE COMMITMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF ICAO COUNCIL AND ICAO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO OUR GOVERNMENT WHEN WE RE-OPENED INTERNATIONAL AIR ROUTE A1 THROUGH THE VIETNAMESE TERRITORY.

THE UNIQUE PROLONGATION OF THREE AREAS OF TEMPORARY RESPONSIBILITY AND THE REQUEST FOR UNREASONABLE MODIFICATION OF THE HO CHI MINH FIR BOUNDARIES WHILE VIETNAM IS TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING AIR-TRAFFIC SERVICES WILL BE DETRIMENTAL NOT ONLY TO VIETNAM'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND

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LEGITIMATE RIGHTS BUT ALSO NEGATIVELY AFFECT AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CO-OPERATION IN THE REGION.

IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I HOPE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO SUPPORT THIS LOGICAL AND REASONABLE POSITION OF VIETNAM AT THE THIRD ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AIR NAVIGATION MEETING.

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED), NGUYEN MANH CAM, FOREIGN MINISTER, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. END TEXT.

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