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FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 8497

SECTION 1 OF 6

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART 1: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING Y ASD/PA MR. LAITIN,  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IS CALLING ON KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN AT BLAIR HOUSE IN THE DISTRICT.

Q: WHAT TIME IS THAT?

A: IT WAS SCHEDULED FOR 10 O'CLOCK. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT'S LASTING. HE MAY STILL BE THERE.

2. ON THE HILL: THOMAS DASHIELL, OF DOD&E, IS APPEARING BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERNING THE DOD ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

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3. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SENT A MESSAGE TO ADMIRAL GAYLER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PACIFIC, LATE LAST NIGHT, FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THAT MESSAGE:

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ADMIRAL NOEL GAYLER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PACIFIC, AT 9 P.M. 29 APRIL 1975: 'ONCE AGAIN IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF YOUR COMMAND FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS AND EXHAUSTING EFFORTS IN THE EVACUATION OF PERSONNEL FROM SOUTH VIETNAM DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. AGAIN, AS IN THE PROFESSIONALISM AND DEDICATION OF AMERICA'S MILITARY FORCES IN EXECUTING A MOST DIFFICULT OPERATION.

THE PERFORMANCE OF PEOPLE UNDER YOUR COMMAND IS IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON THEM, ON THE PACIFIC COMMAND, AND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

'PLEASE EXTEND TO YOUR ENTIRE COMMAND OUR APPRECIATION FOR ANOTHER JOB WELL DONE.'

NOW THAT WE'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A FEW STEPS BACK AND LOOK AT THIS OPERATION, GETTING AWAY FROM SOME OF THE NUTS AND BOLTS WHICH WE ALL HAD TO CONCENTRATE ON DURING THE PAST FORTY-EIGHT

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HOURS, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS THAT WE MISSED BECAUSE OF THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING SITUATION. ONE WAS THAT AN F-14 FROM THE

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CARRIER ENTERPRISE TOOK ABOUT 20 ROUNDS OF ANTIAIRCRAFT FIRE, BUT THE PLANE REMAINED OPERABLE, LANDED SAFELY, AND THE PILOT WAS NOT INJURED.

Q: WHERE'D THIS HAPPEN?

A: IT HAPPENED OVER VIETNAM. I WASN'T ABLE TO NAIL IT DOWN. I PROBABLY CAN DO THAT LATER IF IT'S OF ANY INTEREST TO YOU. IT TOOK TWENTY ROUNDS OF 37 MM FIRE WHILE ACTING AS PART OF THE COVER FOR THE HELICOPTER AIRLIFT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE TIME?

A: THE MESSAGE DOESN'T CARRY THE TIME, BUT I CAN GET THAT FOR YOU LATER. I DID TRY TO GET IT BEFORE I CAME IN HERE, BUT I FIND THAT IF YOU TRY TO NAIL EVERYONE OF THOSE DEALS DOWN, YOU'D NEVER GET IN HERE TO GET THE JOB DONE.

Q: DID THEY RETURN THE FIRE?

A: NO.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, TWO PLANES THAT WERE HIT IN THE ENTIRE OPERATION AND ONLY ONE PLANE THAT EXPENDED AMMUNITION?

A: IN RECAPPING THE WHOLE PROJECT, WHICH I HAVE NOT HAD TIME PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5467 UNCLAS TO DO IN DETAIL, I THINK YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS WE'LL TRY TO PULL EVERYTHING TOGETHER. WE REALLY HAVEN'T HAD SUFFICIENT TIME?

Q: THE HELICOPTER WAS FIRED ON, IT WASN'T HIT, WAS IT?

A: THE LEAD HELICOPTER AT THE DAO COMPOUND THAT ATTRACTED SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IT WAS NOT HIT. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER AIRCRAFT THAT RECEIVED ANY FIRE.

Q: THE F-4 THAT TOOK FIRE AND RESPONDED, YOU DIDN'T SAY AT THE TIME THAT IT'D BEEN HIT.

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT DID NOT GET HIT, BUT IT TOOK A DIM VIEW OF BEING FIRED UPON, AS I RECALL.

Q: SO WHERE IN VIETNAM DID THIS HAPPEN?

A: I'VE GOT A LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE HERE, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO NAIL IT DOWN. I'LL HAVE THAT FOR YOU AFTERWARDS.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE THAT TO US?

A: SURE WE CAN.

Q: WAS IT DEFINITELY COMMUNIST FIRE?

A: I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHETHER IT WAS. LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY, IT WAS APPARENTLY A RATHER UNFRIENDLY THING TO DO.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS SOME ANTIAIRCRAFT FIRE, WAS THERE PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5467 UNCLAS

ANY INDICATION THERE WAS ANY SAM FIRE BY 2S AND 7S?

A: YES, THERE WAS, I REPORTED THAT YESTERDAY.

Q: OF THE 30 SHOTS FIRED BY THE F-14, HOW MANY ACTUALLY HIT?

A: I SAID THERE WERE 20 ROUNDS IT TOOK. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ROUNDS WERE FIRED. IT TOOK 20 ROUNDS.

Q: YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE US THE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE POINTS.

A: I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT AFTER THE BRIEFING.

Q: HOW MANY INSTANCES WERE THERE OF AMERICANS RETURNING FIRE?

A: I HAVEN'T ASSEMBLED ALL THAT. THE ONLY ONE I RECALL REPORTING TO YOU IS THE F-4 THAT RESPONDED TO AAA FIRE. HE DID DROP BOMBS, AND THERE WERE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AS A RESULT OF THAT.

Q: WHERE WAS THAT?

A: IT WAS OVER SAIGON.

Q: HOW NEAR SAIGON WAS THE AAA?

A: IT WAS OVER SAIGON. I DON'T KNOW WHAT PART OF THE CITY IT WAS.

Q: WHERE'D HE DROP THE BOMBS?

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A: HE DROPPED THE BOMBS ON THE AAA IMPLACEMENT.

Q: WHERE WAS THAT?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHAT PART OF SAIGON. IT WAS IN SAIGON, AS I RECALL IT.

Q: BUT THE OTHERS, THERE WERE SOME SA-7S FIRED AT THE HELICOPTERS?

A: THERE WAS SA-7 FIRE. THERE WAS ONE HELICOPTER THAT REPORTED BEING FIRED ON BY THREE SA-7S AND ALL THREE MISSILES DID NOT HIT THE TARGET.

Q: WAS IT FULL OF EVACUEES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I REPORTED THAT YESTERDAY AND I DON'T RECALL WHETHER IT HAD EVACUEES IN IT OR NOT. AT ANY RATE, THE HELICOPTER WAS NOT HIT.

Q: WHAT TIME DID YOU REPORT THAT?

A: I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIME OVER THE PAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS. I CAN LOOK THAT UP. I'VE GOT THREE TRANSCRIPTS AND THEN A COUPLE OF TIMES I CAME INTO THE PRESS ROOM AND REPORTED ON IT.

Q: IS THAT THE ONLY TIME THE SAM-7S WERE FIRED, THAT YOU KNOW OF?

A: THAT I KNOW OF, AT THE MOMENT, YES.

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Q: ANY OTHER SAMs FIRED?

A: THE SA-7 AS YOU ALL PROBABLY KNOW IS THAT SHOULDER WEAPON OPERATED BY TWO MEN.

Q: WASN'T THERE SA-7S FIRED AGAINST TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES?

A: THERE WAS. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CHECK ON THIS. I HEARD THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES. ONE WAS A BOX CAR, THAT WERE BROUGHT DOWN APPARENTLY BY THE SA-7, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CHECK THAT OUT.

Q: WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE MARINES LEAVING THE EMBASSY LAST NIGHT, THERE WAS NO OTHER TIME THAT WE THINK SOUTH VIETNAMESE FIRED ON AMERICAN PLANES OR HELICOPTERS?

A: I DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THE FIRE YESTERDAY WAS BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

Q: THAT WAS A POSSIBLE EXCEPTION. THERE WAS NO REPORT

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OTHERWISE?

A: THERE'S NO RECORD THAT I KNOW OF EVEN INDICATING THAT.

Q: CHARLIE (CORDDRY, BATIMORE SON), HAS SOMETHING IN HIS STORY THIS MORNING SAYING THAT THE MARINES HAD TO USE TEARGAS IN AN EXCHANGE OF SMALL ARMS FIRE AT THE EMBASSY LAST NIGHT BETWEEN OUR GUYS AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE. YOU HAVE NO RECORD OF THAT?

A: I TRIED TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THAT, IT IS STILL NOT AVAILABLE.

Q: YOU SAY IT IS TRUE THAT MARINES HAD TO FIRE ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

A: I DID NOT. I SAID I TRIED TO GET INFORMATION ON THAT BEFORE I CAME IN HERE. THERE'S STILL NOT ANY INFORMATION ASIDE FROM WHAT YOU WERE GIVEN YESTERDAY AS TO WHAT HAPPENED BUT I AM STILL TRYING TO GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THAT.

Q: WERE THERE ANY MARINES IN THE FINAL HOURS OF THE EVACUATION HURT?

A: APPARENTLY NOT. I'VE ASKED FOR A REPORT ON THAT. THE INDICATIONS ARE THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

Q: I DON'T KNOW WHAT INFORMATION WAS GIVEN ON THESE MARINES.

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LATE LAST NIGHT WERE YOU SAYING THAT THEY DID USE TEARGAS AND EXCHANGE SMALL ARMS FIRE THE LAST FEW GETTING OUT?

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A: I DON'T KNOW. I'M SURE THERE'S A COMPLETE REPORT ABOUT WHAT WAS GIVEN OUT LAST NIGHT BUT I'VE NOT SEEN IT YET.

Q: I'M NOT SURE THERE WAS A COMPLETE REPORT, THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING.

A: I SAY A COMPLETE REPORT ON WHAT WE HAD AVAILABLE WHICH WAS NOT MUCH.

Q: COULD I MAKE A SUGGESTION, I DON'T WANT TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF IT BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT. THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO SPENT THE WHOLE DAY HERE YESTERDAY AND FOUND THAT INFORMATION WAS BEING PUT OUT BUT NOT GENERALLY. IN OTHER WORDS, IF INFORMATION CAME OUT IT WAS GIVEN PIECEMEAL AND NO COPY WAS MADE OF IT, NO DISTRIBUTION WAS MADE GENERALLY TO THE GROUP AFTER THE 9:00 A.M. PRESS CONFERENCE. FROM 9:00 UNTIL ZERO, WHICH IS RIGHT NOW, WE GOT NO PRINTED OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS AS TO WHAT WAS PUT OUT.

A: THAT'S RIGHT. MY RECOLLECTION LLOYD IS THAT AFTER 9:00 WHAT I GAVE OUT WAS JUST RECAPPING WHAT I'D GIVEN YOU BEFORE AND PUTTING IT INTO SOME SEMBLANCE OF ORDER BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO GO OVER THE WHOLE THING WITH ANYBODY THAT WANTS TO AND GET IT ALL ON THE RECORD.

Q: WAS THERE AN INTERRUPTION OF THE AIRLIFT DURING THE AFTERNOON BECAUSE OF WEATHER OR CREW FATIGUE FOR AN HOUR AND 20 MINUTES?

A: THE INTERRUPTION WAS, REMEMBER THESE PILOTS HAD BEEN FLYING FOR 14 HOURS. MANY OF THESE HOURS IN DARKNESS AND MANEUVERING AT LOW LEVELS OVER A CITY WITH WHICH MANY OF THEM WERE UNFAMILIAR AND WITH SA-7S FIRING ON OCCASION AND PUTTING DOWN ON HOME ROOFTOPS. IT WAS UITE A REMARKABLE VENTURE AND I THINK THERE ARE PROBABLY A LOT OF DRAMATIC DETAILS OF THIS THAT ARE NOT YET TOLD AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL GET THEM IN DUE COURSE. REMEMBER THIS WAS PROBABLY THE GREATEST HELICOPTER EVACUATION IN HISTORY. OVER 7,000 PEOPLE WERE TAKEN OUT.

Q: IS THAT OVER 7,000?

A: OVER 7,000 PEOPLE WERE TAKEN OUT BY HELICOPTER ALONE.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS AND HOW MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

A: THERE WERE 1,000 AMERICANS.

Q: THE QUESTION EARLIER WAS WHETHER OR NOT THERE'D BEEN ANY INTERRUPTIONS.

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A: I ADDRESSED MYSELF TO IT, I SAID THERE HAD BEEN AN INTERRUPTION THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO GIVE THE CREW A LITTLE TIME TO REST UP AND A LOT OF OTHER THINGS.

Q: HOW LONG DID IT LAST?

A: I BELIEVE IT WAS ABOUT TWO HOURS.

Q: ABOUT WHAT TIME WAS IT?

A: IT WAS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, OUR EARLY AFTERNOON. I CAN HAIL THAT DOWN FOR YOU, I DON'T HAVE IT HERE.

Q: WERE THERE ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS TAKEN OUT?

A: I DON'T KNOW. THEY'RE SCATTERED OVER QUITE A FEW SHIPS

AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE TAKEN ABOARD SHIPS FROM VARIOUS TYPES OF SEABORN CRAFT THAT PUT OUT FROM VUNG TAU BEACH.

Q: IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT SOME THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS ARE ABOARD THOSE SHIPS?

A: IT COULD BE, WE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION ON IT AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION, ALL THE DETAILS AT ONCE FROM THE SHIPS BECAUSE THEIR COMMUNICATIONS, AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, ARE BEING PRETTY WELL TAXED. WE DID WORK OVERNIGHT MAKING SURE WHERE THERE WERE CORRESPONDENTS ABOARD SHIPS THAT THEY WERE GIVEN SOME PRIORITY SO THAT THEIR COPY PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5468 UNCLAS

COULD GET OUT. AS YOU PROBABLY HAVE BEEN NOTICING THIS MORNING THE STORIES ARE COMING OFF THE SHIPS AND PARTICULARLY THE BLUE RIDGE WHERE SEVERAL DAYS AGO WE HAD PUT A POOL OF REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS. THEIR COPY HAS BEGUN TO COME THROUGH STARTING YESTERDAY, AND I THINK THERE'LL BE MORE AND MORE COMING.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US HOW MANY GOT OUT BY BOAT AND TAKEN ABOARD AMERICAN SHIPS?

A: WE NOW ESTIMATE THE TOTAL EVACUEES ABOARD NAVY AND NSC SHIPS, INCLUDING THE 7,000-PLUS THAT CAME ABOARD BY HELICOPTER, IS AT 25,000 PEOPLE. OF THESE 1,000 ARE AMERICANS. EIGHTEEN THOUSAND GOT THERE BY SURFACE CRAFT OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER.

Q: THEY WERE ALL PICKED UP?

A: THEY'RE ALL PICKED UP.

Q: FROM VUNG TAU AND OTHER SPOTS ALONG THE COAST; BARGES, SAMPANS AND WHATNOT, JUST COMING OUT?

A: AND RAFTS AND WHATNOT.

Q: BUT THAT'S STILL GOING ON ISN'T IT, THAT PICKUP OPERATION?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT IT HAS NOT ENDED YET AND THAT'S WHY SOME SHIPS ARE THERE AND A GOOD MANY OTHER NAVAL CRAFT ARE POINTED EASTWARD AT THE MOMENT.

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Q: WHEN DID THEY START PICKING UP THIS 18,000?

A: IT'S BEEN GOING ON, BUT IN LARGE NUMBERS, THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS SINCE THE HELICOPTER AIRLIFT BEGAN.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A TOTAL FIGURE ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE COME OUT OF VIETNAM IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION, I'VE GOT IT SOMEWHERE. I DON'T HAVE IT HERE.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS NOW TO THESE 18,000 UNSOLICITED EVACUEES BY BOAT DO THEY GET TAKEN TO GUAM OR WHEREVER ELSE OUT OF VIETNAM?

A: THE FIRST THING THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, THEY'RE GOING TO MOVE SOME OF THE REFUGEES AROUND SO THEY CAN ORGANIZE IT BETTER ON THE CRAFT. THE REDISTRIBUTION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE REFUGEES, WHICH IS TO INSURE MAXIMUM SAFETY AND THE HEALTH OF THE REFUGEES, IS NOW GOING ON. GENERALLY, THE SHIPS ARE EXPECTED TO SAIL TO SUBIC WHERE  
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THE REFUGEES WILL BE EITHER TRANSFERRED TO AN AIRLIFT OR OTHER SHIPS AND WOULD HAVE TO BE REPROVISIONED FOR SAILING TO OTHER PORTS. SOME OF THEM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO TO GUAM; SOME WILL GO DIRECT TO GUAM AND THIS IS BEING WORKED OUT NOW.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS ON THOSE SHIPS, THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE FOR EVEN TEN OR TWELVE SHIPS ISN'T IT?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS, ARE THEY LIKE THE SHIPS THAT COME DOWN FROM DANANG AND THE NORTH?

A: I WOULD DOUBT IT, REMEMBER THESE SHIPS WERE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THE REFUGEES.

Q: 25,000?

A: NO, THEY WEREN'T PREPARED TO TAKE ON THAT MANY BUT THEY WERE PREPARED TO HANDLE ANY CONTINGENCY SITUATION I WOULD GUESS. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY REPORTS AND I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE SHIPS EITHER.

Q: COULD WE GET A RUNDOWN AGAIN OF THE SHIPS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION?

A: WE COULD GET THAT. I THOUGHT YOU ALL HAD THAT.

Q: ARE THERE ANY SHIPS POINTED AT SOUTH VIETNAM TO PICK UP  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5469 UNCLAS  
ANY ADDITIONAL REFUGEES?

A: WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT INFORMATION BUT I'LL GET IT

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FOR YOU.

Q: WHAT'S THE TOTAL NOW, THE NUMBER OF THOSE EVACUATED? WOULD IT BE 40,000 PLUS 25,000?

A: I SAID I WOULD GET A RECAP OF THOSE FIGURES FOR YOU.

Q: ARE THESE 18 TO 25,000 MAINLY ON MSC SHIPS?

A: A LOT OF THEM ARE.

Q: SECRETARY KISSINGER MENTIONED A FIGURE OF 55,000. WAS HE INCLUDING THESE 18,000?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I ASSUME HE WAS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT FIGURE HE WAS WORKING WITH BUT WHEN WE GET THE TOTAL FIGURE, IF IT'S CLOSE TO THAT FIGURE, THEN OBVIOUSLY HE WAS.

Q: THE PEOPLE THAT WERE AIRLIFTED, WERE THEY TAKEN TO THE CARRIERS OR TRANSPORT SHIPS?

A: THEY WERE TAKEN MOSTLY TO THE CARRIERS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THEY COULD LAND EASIER. BUT SOME OF THE OTHER SHIPS HAD HELIPADS AND THEY WERE TAKEN THERE. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON THE BLUE RIDGE, THEY HAD A LITTLE PROBLEM.

Q: MOST OF THE PEOPLE WERE EVACUATED BY HELICOPTERS ARE ON PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5469 UNCLAS THE CARRIERS NOW THEN, RIGHT?

A: THEY WERE ABOARD THE CARRIERS AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE'S BEEN ANY REDISTRIBUTION YET. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME.

Q: HOW MANY SHIPS ARE STILL STANDING OFF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COAST?

A: I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ARE STANDING OFF AND HOW MANY HAVE SET SAIL, BUT I'LL TRY TO GET THAT.

Q: THEY ARE STAYING IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS?

A: YES.

Q: WHAT AUTHORITY IS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RELYING UPON TO CONTINUE THIS EVACUATION EFFORT NOW THAT ALL THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE CONTINUING THE EFFORT. THERE'S NO LAW THAT SAYS YOU CAN'T PICK UP SOMEBODY WHO IS IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS.

Q: PRESUMABLY THESE 18,000 THAT WERE PICKED UP WERE ANYBODY WHO APPEARED TO BE PICKED UP. THERE WAS NO BLUE SLIPS FROM THE EMBASSY SAYING THAT THEY FIT INTO ONE OF THE IMMIGRATION CATEGORIES?

A: THEY WERE UNDOCUMENTED, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, MANY OF THEM. INCIDENTALLY, THAT WILL HAVE TO BE A JOB THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP WHEN THEY REACH A PORT, THAT IS SEPARATING THE DOCUMENTED PEOPLE, THE ONES WHO HAVE PASSPORTS AND THE PAPERS ARE ALL IN ORDER FROM THE OTHERS. OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT THE INTER-AGENCY INDOCHINA COMMITTEE WILL BE HANDLING. THEY'RE MEETING EVERY DAY AND REVIEWING THE WHOLE SITUATION.

Q: IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THERE ARE AMERICANS STILL IN SAIGON WHO COULD NOT GET OUT FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER AND WHO WANTED TO GET OUT?

A: THE ONLY ONES THAT I KNOW OF WERE A COUPLE OF UNITED PRESS



CORRESPONDENTS AND THEY HAD A SPECIAL PROBLEM OF NOT BEING ABLE  
ABLE TO REACH THE EMBASSY. AS FAR AS I KNOW THEY ARE STILL THERE.

Q: NO. U.S. EMPLOYEES OR OTHERS THAT YOU KNOW OF THAT DID  
NOT GET OUT?

A: NO.

Q: NO DAO PEOPLE OR AMERICANS?

A: NO.

Q: HOW MANY LANDING ZONES AND HOW DID THEY ORGANIZE THIS  
THING IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A: I WANTED TO GET MORE DETAILED INFORMATION. I THOUGHT  
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YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN THIS (PHOTO) -- THIS IS THE EMBASSY  
COMPOUND AREA. THE U.S. MARINE GUARD HAD TO REMOVE SOME TREES  
FROM THIS AREA HERE, WHICH IS YOU SEE IS 95 X 115 FEET, NEXT  
TO THE EMBASSY AND THIS FOR THE CH-46 AND CH-53 LANDINGS. I  
THINK THAT EVEN AN EXPERT HELICOPTER PILOT UNDER GOOD CONDITIONS  
WOULD CONSIDER THAT NOT AN OVERLY AMPLE LANDING SITE. CAN YOU  
IMAGINE DOING THAT IN THE BAD WEATHER THEY HAD THERE DURING THE  
NIGHT AND AT NIGHT AND THEN OF COURSE ON THE ROOF OVER THERE.

Q: HOW LARGE IS THE ROOF?

A: THE ROOF IS HALF THE SIZE OF THIS LITTLE YARD -- 45 FT BY  
70 FT. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY USED THIS SITE OVER HERE.

Q: WHAT'S THAT SITE?

A: THIS SITE LOOKS LIKE A PARKING LOT.

Q: THAT'S GOING BEYOND THE EMBASSY COMPOUND WALL?

A: YES. I DON'T THINK THEY USED THAT. THE ROOF COULD NOT  
TAKE THE CH-53S BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T STAND THE WEIGHT.

Q: HOW DID YOU GET THE PICTURE?

A: CHARLEY (CORDRY), THIS WAS THE PICTURE I EXAMINED  
DOWN IN THE NATIONAL COMMAND CENTER WHEN I WAS THERE KEEPING  
IN TOUCH WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON AND I SAW SECRETARY SCHLESINGER  
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AND GENERAL BROWN REFERRING TO THIS AND SO THIS MORNING BEFORE COMING IN HERE, WHEN I WAS LOOKING OVER MY NOTES, I SENT SOMEBODY DOWN TO ASK IF I COULD BORROW THE PICTURE AND HERE IT IS.

Q: NOW WHILE THAT GETS US THAT FAR, NOW HOW DID IT GET TO THE NMCC? IS IT AN OLD PICTURE OR IS IT ONE MADE YESTERDAY AND TRANSMITTED HERE SOMETIME?

A: NO, I'VE SEEN HIS PICTURE FOR A WEEK.

Q: HOW MANY OTHER LANDING ZONES WERE THERE?

A: THAT WAS IT AND HERE IS THE PICTURE OF THE DAD COMPOUND OUT AT TAN SON NHUT. THIS IS THE COMPOUND AREA HERE AND HERE'S THE BASEBALL FIELD. SOME OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS AREA PRETTY WELL. I THINK THAT THE MOST OF THE LANDINGS WERE HERE IN THE TENNIS COURTS. I'LL LEAVE THESE HERE OR KEEP THEM IN MY OFFICE IF ANY OF YOU WANT TO EXAMINE THEM MORE CLOSELY.

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Q: CAN WE GET COPIES OF THOSE?

A: IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME TO GET YOU COPIES OF THIS AREA, RATHER THAN THIS COPY. IT IS ONE OF THOSE BUREAUCRATIC THINGS. THESE BELONG TO THE COMMAND CENTER BUT I CAN GET SIMILAR TYPE PHOTOGRAPHS IF YOU WANT THEM. IF YOU DO, PLEASE LET ME OR MY SECRETARY OR COMMANDER HAMILTON OR DDI.

Q: IS THERE ANY WORD ON THE TWO MISSING CREWMEN?

A: THEY'RE STILL CONSIDERED MISSING-IN-ACTION AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE THEIR NAMES, CAPTAIN WILLIAM CRAIG NYSTUL. HE MAKES HIS HOME IN OKINAWA-JAPAN.

Q: DO WE HAVE A STATESIDE?

A: NO, WE JUST HAVE HIS NEXT-OF-KIN AS HIS WIFE -- CAROL UNA NYSTUL -- WHO LIVES IN OKINAWA.

THE OTHER CREW MEMBER IS FIRST LIEUTENANT MICHAEL JOHN SHEA, HE LIVES IN EL PASO, TEXAS. NEXT-OF-KIN IS HIS WIFE -- JENNIFER CLAIRE SHEA, EL PASO, TEXAS.

Q: ARE THESE ARMY TYPES?

A: NO, THESE ARE MARINES.

Q: THEY'RE STILL LISTED OFFICIALLY AS MISSING-IN-ACTION?

A: THEY'RE PORTED AS MISSING. THEY WERE HALF OF THE CREW OF

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A CH-46 HELICOPTER MARINE CORPS -- AND IT WENT DOWN NEAR THE CARRIER HANCOCK. THE OTHER TWO MARINE CREWMEN ABOARD THE HELI-

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COPTER WERE RESCUED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE AGES ON THESE GUYS?

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: WERE THERE PASSENGERS ON THOSE?

A: NO, THERE WERE NOT.

Q: THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY OUT.

A: THAT WOULD BE THE ASSUMPTION.

Q: WE WERE TOLD IT WAS A RESCUE CHOPPER, WASN'T IT?

A: THEN IT WAS.

Q: HOW MUCH ORDNANCE DID THE U.S. AIR FORCE EXPEND THERE?

A: I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S A GOOD QUESTION. I'M SURE WE'LL COME UP WITH A STATISTIC ON THAT AT SOME POINT IN TIME.

Q: THESE 18,000 REFUGEES WERE UNDOCUMENTED. THAT IS ANY REFUGEE WHO COULD MAKE. . . .

A: NOT NECESSARILY. I JUST ASSUME A GOOD MANY OF THEM WERE.

Q: IS THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING, WE'RE ASSUMING THAT THESE WERE JUST ANYBODY WHO COULD MAKE IT OUT TO THE U.S. SHIPS?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

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Q: AT WHAT POINT DID THAT POLICY BEGIN?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT IT WAS ESTABLISHED POLICY BUT THEY WERE THERE AND THEY WERE ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THEY WERE RESCUED FROM WHATEVER CRAFT THEY WERE ON.

Q: ARE THEY STILL COMING?

A: I'VE HEARD, BUT HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CHECK IT OFFICIALLY THAT SOME OF IT IS STILL GOING ON BUT I DON'T KNOW TO WHAT DEGREE.

Q: HOW MANY MILES OFF SOUTH VIETNAM ARE THOSE SHIPS?

A: BEYOND THREE MILES.

Q: BEYOND THREE, WOULD IT BE FIVE, TEN?

A: I SAID BEYOND THREE.

Q: WHY DO YOU SAY THREE MILES? IS THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS OF VIETNAM?

A: BECAUSE I ASKED SOMEBODY HOW FAR OUT THE SHIPS WERE AND THEY SAID BEYOND THREE MILES. THEY WERE AT VARYING DISTANCES FROM LAND AS ANY FLOTILLA WOULD BE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE DOD STILL REGARDS THREE MILES AS THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF VIETNAM?

A: IF YOU'RE ASKING ME THAT'S A LEGAL QUESTION. I'LL BE GLAD TO GET AN ANSWER FOR YOU.

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Q: HOW MANY FIGHTER PLANES AND OTHER AIR COVER PROTECTION PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION? WHAT SERVICES WERE INVOLVED?

A: THE NAVY, MARINES AND AIR FORCE WERE VERY MUCH INVOLVED. THERE WERE 120 U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES INVOLVED.

Q: FROM THAILAND?

A: TAILAND.

Q: YOU'RE TALKING NOW ABOUT FIGHTER TYPE PLANES RATHER THAN TRANSPORTS?

A: AND TANKERS. REMEMBER, HOURS BEFORE THIS OPERATION BEGAN, U.S. AIR FORCE TANKERS HAD TO PREPARE FOR AND POSITION THEMSELVES AND MANY OF THE FIGHTER PLANES THAT PROVIDED AIR COVER FOR THE HELICOPTERS REMAINED IN THE AIR FOR A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AS A RESULT OF THIS AIR REFUELING CAPABILITY MOSTLY BY THE AIR FORCE.

Q: THIS HAD TO BE PLANNED SEVERAL DAYS AHEAD THAT YOU WERE GOING TO AIRLIFT THEM OUT, THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A LAST MINUTE DECISION FOR OPTION IV?

A: IT WAS A LAST MINUTE DECISION FOR OPTION IV. BUT THESE FOUR PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5470 UNCLAS OPTIONS HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME AND THE MILITARY WAS AWARE OF IT AND OBVIOUSLY HAD TO PREPARE FOR ANY OF THE CONTINGENCIES PRESENTED TO THEM BY THE SELECTION OF ANY OF THE OPTIONS, ALL OF WHICH WERE EXERCISED UP TO AND INCLUDING THE FINAL OPTION WAS KNOWN AS OPTION IV.

Q: OPTION I YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO HAVE AIR COVER?

A: THAT'S RIGHT. OPTION II CALLED FOR A MILITARY RESPONSE AND SO DID OPTION II AND OBVIOUSLY, OPTION IV.

Q: HOW LONG WERE THE TANKERS ON STATION CIRCLING IN THE AREAS TO BE USED, A WEEK?

A: NO. BUT THEY WERE PREPARED TO MOVE ON SHORT NOTICE.

Q: HOW LONG WOULD HAVE IT TAKEN THEM FROM THEIR BASES IN THAILAND TO THEIR POSITIONS FOR THE OPERATION?

A: IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHICH BASES THEY CAME FROM BUT THEY WERE IN POSITION WHEN THEY WERE NEEDED, LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY.

Q: THERE WAS A LAG OF ABOUT ALMOST TWO HOURS BETWEEN THE ORDER TO BEGIN OPTION IV AND THE TIME . . . . .

A: TO BE PRECISE, IT WAS AN HOUR AND 50 MINUTES.

Q: IS THAT ACCOUNTED FOR BY WHAT YOU JUST DESCRIBED?

A: IT WAS ACCOUNTED FOR. I WOULD THINK THAT A LARGE PART OF.

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THAT WAS REQUIRED THAT LONG TO GET EVERYBODY TO GET POSITIONED INCLUDING THE AIR CAP.

Q: INCLUDING THE TANKERS AND AIR CAP?

A: MOSTLY THE AIR CAP.

Q: HOW MANY NAVY PLANES WERE INVOLVED?

A: IT WAS CLOSER TO 150. INVOLVED IS A TRICKY WORD, LET'S SAY WERE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPATION. I'M COVERING MYSELF IN CASE SOME OF THEM NEVER TOOK OFF.

Q: WHAT KINDS OF AIRCRAFT WERE INVOLVED IN THE COVER?

A: YOU KNOW THERE WAS AN F-14: F-4S, A-7S.

Q: HOW MANY WERE AIRBORNE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: MOST OF THEM WERE AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER, BUT NOT ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

Q: THOSE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE HELDS?

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A: THAT FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE HELICOPTERS. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT THERE WERE 81 HELICOPTERS. INCIDENTALLY, WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF HELICOPTERS, QUITE A FEW OF THOSE WERE U.S. AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS THAT OPERATED FROM THE CARRIER MIDWAY. AS A MINOR FOOTNOTE IN HISTORY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS OPERATED OPERATIONALLY OFF A CARRIER.

Q: WHAT WAS THE REASON OR CAN YOU EXPLAIN FOR THE DELAY IN LANDING OF THE HELICOPTERS THAT YOU SPOKE OF YESTERDAY?

A: NO. THE INFORMATION I GAVE YOU AT THE TIME WAS ACCURATE AND STILL IS.

Q: YOU ALSO SAID THAT QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED OR AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED. I ASSUME THE EFFORT IS STILL GOING ON?

A: YES, QUITE NATURALLY THERE WAS AN EFFORT AT THE TIME TO FIND OUT WHY IT WAS ISSUED, WHERE IT CAME FROM AND TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS ON THIS WHOLE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION, IT IS BEING LOOKED INTO AND PERHAPS THEY'LL COME UP WITH SOME ANSWERS FOR YOU.

Q: WHAT ORDERS WERE GIVEN TO SHIPS STILL LYING OFF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COAST AS TO WHAT TYPE OF REFUGEES WERE PICKED UP?

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A: I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO TRY TO FIND OUT.

Q: WOULD YOU GET MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THIS, HOW

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MANY SHIPS: HOW LONG THEY'RE GOING TO STAY ON STATION?

A: MOST OF THEM, I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, ARE GOING TO HEAD TOWARD SUBIC BECAUSE THEY NEED. . . .

Q: YOU ALSO SAID A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SHIPS HAD REMAINED THERE TO PICK UP PEOPLE.

A: FOR A MATTER OF A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, I'M TALKING IN TERMS OF HOURS, OR MAYBE A DAY OR SOMETHING. BECAUSE THEY AREN'T ALL GOING TO STEAM BACK TO SUBIC.

Q: HOW DO THE SHIPS ESTABLISH THAT THE PEOPLE THEY ARE PICKING UP ARE HIGH RISK VIETNAMESE, THE ONES THAT WE'VE SAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO EVACUATE?

A: I'LL CHECK INTO THAT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU APPLY THAT RULE TO SOMEBODY WHO IS ON A SMALL BOAT ON THE HIGH SEAS AND ASKS FOR HELP.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US HOW THINGS ARE GOING AT THE THREE BASES HERE IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE THEY'RE TAKING IN THE REFUGEES AND ARE THEY GOING TO SHIP THESE 25,000 TO THESE BASES EVENTUALLY?

A: SOME OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO CAMP  
PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5471 UNCLAS

PENDLETON BUT THESE ARE THE EVACUEES, I SHOULD CALL THEM THAT, HAVE COME HERE BY FIXED WING AIRLIFT. I HAVE REQUESTED AND IT'S BEEN CARRIED OUT THAT COMPETENT HIGH LEVEL MILITARY PERSONNEL BE ASSIGNED TO HANDLE THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SITUATION AT THESE CAMPS. IF YOU WANT THE NAMES OF THESE OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE, I WOULD SUGGEST YOU CALL DDI, THEY'VE GOT THE NAMES. THERE'S A LIEUTENANT COLONEL ART BRILL, A VERY COMPETENT OFFICER AT CAMP PENDLETON; COLONEL FLYOCK AT CAMP CHAFFEE; AND MAJOR SMITH AT EGLIN. EGLIN WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST TO TAKE IN SOME OF THESE PEOPLE; IT'S FORTUNATELY A PLACE WHERE THEY WOULD HAVE TO ERECT MOSTLY TENTS. THEY DON'T HAVE THE SAME BARRACKS CAPABILITY AS CHAFFEE AND PENDLETON.

Q: IS THE PLAN TO GO TO PENDLETON, FILL IT UP AND THEN MOVE TO CHAFFEE, FILL IT UP AND THEN MOVE TO EGLIN?

A: THAT'S THE GENERAL THINKING BUT YOU REALLY OUGHT TO GO TO THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR BROWN TO GET MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THAT. EXCEPT FOR DAY-TO-DAY INFORMATION AT THE CAMPS AND THEN WE'VE GOT THESE PAO SETUPS THERE AND THEY'LL LATER BE ACCOMPANIED BY STATE DEPARTMENT PEOPLE TO HANDLE THE ASPECTS OF IT THAT ARE NON-MILITARY ORIENTED.

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Q: WHAT IS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REACTION TO THE MILITARY DEFEAT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE SURRENDER OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

A: FOR THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION I WOULD ADDRESS YOU TO THE STATEMENT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER THAT HE TRANSMITTED TO THE ARMED FORCES YESTERDAY AND WHICH YOU CONDENSED SO WELL IN YOUR BROADCAST THIS MORNING.

Q: AS THE RECORD NOW STANDS, THE ONLY TIME THAT OUR FORCES USED ANY FIRE WAS THE F-4 DROPPING BOMBS. IF THAT IS NOT CORRECT, I HOPE YOU WILL CORRECT IT FOR THE RECORD AND LET US KNOW.

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SMALL ARMS FIRE RETURNED. THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS. BUT EVENTUALLY YOU'LL GET ALL OF THAT INFORMATION. THE ONLY INCIDENT WAS THE ONE YOU REFERRED TO, OFF-HAND OF A FIGHTER PLANE RETURNING ANY FIRE.

Q: THERE WAS AN F-4 THAT RETURNED FIRE AGAINST THE SA-7 MISSILES THAT WERE FIRED AT THAT HELICOPTER YOU SAID. SO IT WAS TWO F-4S THAT ACTUALLY . . . . .

A: I DON'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.

Q: YOU TOLD ME YOURSELF THAT THERE WERE THREE MISSILES FIRED  
PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5471 UNCLAS  
AT A HELICOPTER, HE CALLED IN AN F-4 WHO WENT DOWN TO TRY AND SUPPRESS FIRE AGAINST WHOEVER WAS. . . . .

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE FIRED OR NOT.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE ACTUALLY FIRED OR NOT, BUT HE WAS CALLED IN.

Q: WHAT SERVICE WAS THE F-4 THAT WAS FIRED ON AND FIRED BACK, WAS THAT NAVY OR AIR FORCE?

A: I'LL HAVE TO FIND THAT OUT FOR YOU.

Q: I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD BECAUSE THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME DOUBT IN SOME QUARTERS WHETHER THIS AIRPLANE ACTUALLY DID, AS THE SAYING GOES, EXPEND ORDNANCE.

A: WHERE DOES THE DOUBT COME FROM?

Q: I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU THAT IT MAY BE THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE WRONG SERVICE.

A: I CAN TELL YOU THAT WAS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THAT THEY DROPPED BOMBS, SO LET'S CLEAR UP THAT PART OF IT, MAYBE IT'S THE SERVICE THAT WASN'T ABLE TO TELL YOU.

Q: HOW MANY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES LANDED IN THAILAND?

A: I MADE A NOTE OF ONE OTHER THING THAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU. THERE WERE 72 PLANES, MOSTLY VIETNAMESE OPERATED -- ONE OF THEM  
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SECTION 6 OF 6

WAS AIR AMERICA, I DON'T KNOW WHO OPERATES THEM -- THAT FLEW TO THAILAND WITH APPROXIMATELY 2,100 PEOPLE.

Q MOSTLY C-130S?

A: THERE WERE 13 C-47S; 27 F-5S AND SO FORTH. I DON'T HAVE A COMPLETE RECORD SO LET'S JUST STAND ON THAT.

Q: HOW MANY C-130S?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY RECORD OF A C-130.

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE AIRCRAFT?

A: I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA.

Q: HAS ANY OTHER COUNTRY EITHER VOLUNTEERED OR SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SETTLING ON A PERMANENT BASIS, VIETNAMESE REFUGEES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES?

A: THAT WOULD BE MORE OF A MATTER TO ADDRESS TO THIS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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Q: I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER YOU'D HEARD ANYTHING?

A: NO, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING AT ALL, IT'S A LITTLE EARLY FOR THAT.

Q: DID YOU SAY THAT THERE WERE MORE VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT THAT WENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES THESE IN THAILAND AND THE APPROXIMATELY 18 HELICOPTERS YOU DISCUSSED YESTERDAY GOING TO THE SHIPS OFF SHORE.

A: NO, I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OTHER AIRCRAFT.

Q: STILL ABOUT 18 HELICOPTERS THAT CAME TO THE SHIPS OFF SHORE OR HAVE THERE BEEN SOME MORE?

A: I CAN'T EVEN VERIFY THE 18 EXCEPT I DID MENTION 18 YESTERDAY, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ADDITIONAL ONES.

Q: DID YOU SAY THE F-14 DID NOT RETURN FIRE?

A: I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE THAT IT DID, SO I ASSUME IT DID NOT. I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE HEARD THAT IT HAD.

I MENTIONED A LITTLE EARLIER ABOUT THE REFUGEES THAT WERE EVACUATED AND HAVE ARRIVED AT VARIOUS BASES ONE THE WEST COAST DURING THE PAST 24-36 HOURS NOW TOTALS 1,700 FROM INDOCHINA, ON 12 MAC C-141S AND TWO COMMERCIAL MAC CHARTER AIRCRAFT. OF THESE, 437 ARE PRESENTLY AT CAMP PENDLETON AND THE REMAINDER

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ARE EITHER ENROUTE TO PENDLETON OR IN THE CASE OF PERSONS WITH IMMEDIATE SPONSORS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED.

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Q: IS THE UNITED STATES STILL FLYING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM OR DENY THAT KY IS ON BOARD THE MIDWAY?

A: HE'S ON THE BLUE RIDGE -- HE AND AMBASSADOR MARTIN. I UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN WAS TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ABOARD THE BLUE RIDGE THIS MORNING.

Q: DID KY FLY OUT WITH MARTIN AT THE VERY END?

A: I DON'T THINK HE DID. I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE THAT HE DID.

Q: WOULD YOU ESTABLISH WHETHER WE ARE STILL FLYING RECON FLIGHTS FOR US PLEASE?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE DISCUSS OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS LIKE THAT BUT IF WE DO I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.

Q: IN THE PAST, MR. SCHLESINGER HAS OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED WE WERE FLYING UNARMED RECON FLIGHTS.

A: THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ONE ABANDONS RULES AND HE'S IN A POSITION TO DO IT.

Q: GENERAL SIDLE MENTIONED IT HERE ABOUT A WEEK AGO.

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A: I WILL CHECK IT. I'M NOT DENYING YOU THE INFORMATION AND I'M NOT ASSUMING THAT I KNOW WHAT THE PROPER RULES ARE BUT I WILL FIND OUT ABOUT IT AND TELL IT TO YOU IF I CAN.

Q: THAT HOUR AND 50 MINUTE DELAY YOU REFERRED TO BEFORE.

A: THERE WASN'T AN HOUR AND 50 MINUTE DELAY, IT TOOK AN HOUR AND 50 MINUTES BEFORE THEY TOOK OFF FROM THE CARRIER.

Q: YOU SPOKE OF TANKERS (INAUDIBLE), DO YOU MEAN POSITIONS IN THE AIR OR JUST GETTING READY TO TAKE OFF?

A: BOTH.

Q: WHO GAVE THE ORDER OF THAT AND WHY?

A: THE OPERATION WAS UNDER CINCPAC.

Q: I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY FOR A 500-MILE AN HOUR TANKER TO TAKE OFF FROM UTAPAO HOURS BEFORE ANY EVACUATION HAD BEEN ORDERED.

A: I DIDN'T SAY THAT THEY TOOK OFF HOURS BEFORE THE EVACUATION ORDER.

Q: YOU IMPLIED THAT.

A: I SAID BEFORE THE EVACUATION STARTED, THAT'S WHAT I MEANT TO SAY.

Q: THE ORDER FOR EVACUATION WAS AT 10:51 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IF THEY WERE SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER -- LET'S SAY 7:51, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETIME BEFORE THE ORDER.

A: IF IT'S OF IMPORTANCE FOR YOU TO KNOW EXACTLY WHEN THEY TOOK OFF, I'LL BE GLAD TO FIND IT OUT, CONCEIVABLY ONE OF THEM COULD HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE OFF THE MINUTE IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A LARGE SCALE CHOPPER EVACUATION.

Q: YOU IMPLIED BEFORE THAT THE HELICOPTERS WERE DELAYED FOR TWO HOURS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE TANKERS AN AIR COVER TIME TO GET OVER THE SCENE.

A: I SAID THAT WAS PART OF THE REASON WHY, I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT CARRIER HELICOPTER OPERATIONS TO KNOW PRECISELY WHY. THAT INFORMATION IS PROBABLY VERY EASILY AVAILABLE AND I'LL BE GLAD TO GET IT FOR YOU IF YOU WANT IT. THEY ALSO HAD TO DEPLOY SEARCH AND RESCUE CHOPPERS THAT PROBABLY WAS A FACTOR.

Q: CAN'T WE SIMPLY FIND OUT WHEN THE TANKERS TOOK OFF.

A: THEY WERE ON STATION THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION AND IF IT'S ALL THAT IMPORTANT TO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT HOUR THEY WERE ON STATION I'M SURE THAT I CAN GET THAT INFORMATION FOR YOU.

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SECTION 1 OF 4

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART 1: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY COL BURKE, TUESDAY,  
APRIL 8, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: STATEMENT FROM LGEN FISH, DIRECTOR OF DSAA, AT CLOSED SESSION BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS DEFENSE SUB-COMMITTEE. THAT'S AVAILABLE NOW. THIS AFTERNOON WE'LL HAVE STATEMENTS FROM DOD WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE. WITNESSES INCLUDE PERRY FLIAKAS, DASD/INSTALLATIONS AND HOUSING, OASD/I&L, AND OTHERS. WE'LL RELEASE THOSE WHEN THE COMMITTEE DOES.

Q: IS THERE ANY PREPARED STATEMENT ON THE VIETNAM HEARINGS?

A: GENERAL WEYAND?

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Q: YES.

A: NO, THERE IS NOT. HE OF COURSE, AS YOU KNOW FROM THE WIRES, IS ON THE HILL THIS MORNING.

2. RELEASE ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOMINATED CHAPLAIN ORRIS E. KELLEY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF MGGENERAL AND ASSIGNMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE ARMY. HE SUCCEEDS CHAPLAIN HYATT WHO RETIRES AUGUST 1. CHAPLAIN KELLEY IS PRESENTLY SERVING IN THE OFFICE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE ARMY, ALSO, THE PRESIDENT HAS NAMED BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY MOHR FOR ASSIGNMENT AS CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE. HE'S PRESENTLY SERVING AS COMGENERAL OF THE 102ND U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND IN ST. LOUIS.

3. NO SPEECH TEXTS TODAY.

4. SOMEONE ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE FUNDING FOR VIETNAM FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND WE'RE TOLD THAT AS OF 3 APRIL ALL OF THE \$175 MILLION FOURTH QUARTER FUNDS, HAVE BEEN OBLIGATED. BECAUSE OF THE FLUID SITUATION OUT THERE, THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOME REPROGRAMMING WITHIN THIS AMOUNT, BUT THE EXACT BREAKOUT OF THE FUNDS IS A DECISION THAT'S BASICALLY MADE BY PEOPLE OUT THERE IN VIETNAM.

Q: HOW DO THEY DO THAT? IF THEY OBLIGATED IT, THEY MUST HAVE

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GONE INTO CERTAIN POCKETS. HOW DO THEY GET IT BACK?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE MECHANICS OF IT, LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK),

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BUT THERE IS A WAY UP TO A CERTAIN POINT THAT THEY CAN ADJUST IT.

Q: IN VIEW OF THE SEVERAL PLANE LOADS OF HOWITZERS AND OTHER THINGS THAT HAVE GONE OUT THERE IN THE LAST WEEK, IS THERE ANY WAY TO TELL HOW MUCH OF THIS \$175 ACTUALLY HAS BEEN DELIVERED?

A: THE BEST WE CAN GET RIGHT NOW, FRED (HOFFMAN, AP), IS THAT ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF THE \$175 MILLION FOURTH QUARTER MONEY HAS BEEN EXPENDED AND DELIVERED. OF THE TOTAL \$700 MILLION FOR '75 AS OF YESTERDAY, ABOUT \$468 MILLION HAD BEEN EXPENDED AND DELIVERED. OF THAT \$468 MILLION, THE LARGEST CATEGORY OF COURSE IS AMMUNITION AND ABOUT \$190 MILLION REPRESENTS GROUND AMMUNITION.

Q: HOW MUCH OF IT WAS AIR AMMUNITION?

A: AIR AMMUNITION -- \$18 MILLION, AND \$55 MILLION FOR POL. THESE FIGURES ALL ARE PART OF THE \$468 MILLION. THE REST REPRESENTS MATERIALS, SPARE PARTS AND A PRETTY GOOD CHUNK OF IT FOR SERVICES.

Q: CAN YOU BREAK THIS ALL OUT?

A: FURTHER THAN THIS?

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Q: YES. CAN YOU GO DOWN THAT LIST?

A: I DON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN FOR THAT LAST CATEGORY. BUT WE CAN PROBABLY GET A BREAKDOWN ON THAT.

Q: IS THERE ANY EQUIPMENT, IN OTHER WORDS, THE HOWITZERS THAT WERE SENT OUT THERE, ARE THEY THE FIRST ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT?

A: THAT WOULD STILL BE PART OF THE \$700 MILLION IN ANY EVENT.

Q: I JUST WONDERED BECAUSE THEY WERE SAYING THAT THERE WERE PRACTICALLY NO ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR.

A: THAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE PART OF THIS PORTION THAT I HAVEN'T BORKEN DOWN. WE'LL SEE.

Q: MATERIALS, IN OTHER WORDS, EQUIPMENT, SPARES, ETC.?

A: YES, THAT WOULD BE PART OF THE REMAINDER.

Q: IT'S STILL 232 MILLION THEN THAT CAN BE REPROGRAMMED?

A: HOW DO YOU GET THAT?

Q: \$468 FROM \$700. THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE WHAT WAS IN THE PIPELINE. AS LONG AS IT HASN'T BEEN DELIVERED, YOU CAN CHANGE WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE.

A: I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY AT WHAT POINT, AND I ASSUME IT VARIES WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF SHIPMENTS. I'M NOT SURE AT WHAT POINT YOU CANNOT REPROGRAM IT. WE CAN SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, IF THEY ORDER ONE HUNDRED 105S AND THEY DECIDE INSTEAD TO SEND THEM SOMETHING LIKE RADIOS, THE ARMY KEEPS THE 105S AND SENDS THEM RADIOS IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF MONEY. IS THAT WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL REPROGRAMMING?

A: I THINK THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: SO IT REALLY DOESN'T INVOLVE CHANGING ANY CONTRACT?

A: THERE WOULD BE A CONTRACT INVOLVED WITH A SUPPLIER IF IT WERE COMING FROM OTHER THAN ARMY STOCKS AND SOME OF THIS DOES, INCLUDING SERVICES. SO IT DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF ITEM

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AND WHERE IT'S COMING FROM.

5. ON THE ORPHAN EVACUATION, OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER THAT HAVE ARRIVED AT TRAVIS AFB, CALIFORNIA, IS 193 ORPHANS; THEY ARRIVED ON THREE C-141 FLIGHTS. THERE ARE ANOTHER 302 ORPHANS ENROUTE TO TRAVIS ON A MAC CHARTER DC-10 (OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRLINE) AND ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS AFTERNOON OUR TIME. THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 23 ORPHANS STILL AT CLARK AB. THE TOTAL IS 518. IN ADDITION TO THOSE AND THAT'S THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AIRLIFT, OUR FIGURES SHOW THAT ON OTHER AIRLIFTS, TWO PANAM FLIGHTS AND ONE DC-8 WORLD AIRWAYS -- PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 3180 UNCLAS THERE WERE 787. SO IF OUR FIGURES ARE CORRECT, THE TOTAL MOVED TO DATE IS 1,305 ORPHANS.

Q: WHERE DID THE CIVILIAN AIRLIFT GO INTO?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK.

6. THE PHNOM PENH STATISTICS: THE ATTACKS BY FIRE ON POCHENTON AIRPORT ON APRIL 6 WAS ONE 105MM ROUND AND TWENTY-FOUR 107MM ROUNDS; APRIL 7 THERE WERE ELEVEN 105S AND TWENTY-SEVEN 107 ROCKETS. NO REPORT ON APRIL 8. THE FLIGHTS INTO POCHENTON ON APRIL 8 WERE 41. WE WILL GIVE YOU A BREAKOUT LATER.

7. WE HAVE A FACT SHEET THAT IS A PARTIAL REPORT ON THE FIRST PORTION OF THE REFUGEE EVACUATION AS IT RELATES TO THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND ACTIVITIES. WE WILL TRY AND KEEP YOU UPDATED ON THIS. AS YOU KNOW, WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE AMERICAN NAVAL TRANSPORTS AND CONTRACT VESSELS TO ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION OF REFUGEES, THERE WERE SOME SHIPS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NAVY'S MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND IN AND NEAR VIETNAMESE WATERS AND THEY WERE ENGAGED AT THAT TIME IN THE MOVEMENT OF CARGO. SO THEY IMMEDIATELY DIVERTED TO THE EVACUATION OF REFUGEES AND BEGAN WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK OPERATION WHICH ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS THAT ARE COMING IN, WERE, AS YOU BT

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CAN IMAGINE, SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT AND UNDER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS. WE HAVE A BRIEF FACT SHEET WHICH YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE MARINES AT SUBIC? ARE THEY GOING ABOARD THE DURHAM AND THE FREDERICK AND WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO AND WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO GO?

A: THE MARINES ARE AT SUBIC BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS WHERE THEY'RE GOING OR WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO.

Q: HOW LARGE A FORCE DID YOU SAY IT WAS?

A: IT'S A BATTALION, ABOUT 1,500 MARINES.

Q: FROM WHICH DIVISION, IS THAT THE THIRD?

A: THEY'RE FROM THE 9TH REGIMENT ON OKINAWA.

Q: ARE YOU RULING OUT THE MARINES WILL BE PUT ON BOARD THE CONTRACT SHIPS?

A: NO, I'M NOT RULING THAT OUT, THAT IS A POSSIBILITY. WE PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3181 UNCLAS HAVE MARINES ON THE FOLLOWING MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND SHIPS WHICH ARE CONTRACT SHIPS, THE PIONEER CONTENDER, THE TRANS-COLORADO; THE AMERICAN CHALLENGER, AND THE GREEN PORT.

Q: AREN'T THOSE MARINES SUPPOSED TO GO ON THE NAVY SHIPS?

A: WHICH MARINES?

Q: THE MARINES NOW THAT ARE AT SUBIC.

A: I'VE ALREADY SAID I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS WHERE THEY'RE GOING, BUT I'M NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY PROVIDE SHIPBOARD SECURITY ON OTHER CIVILIAN CONTRACT VESSELS AS NEEDED.

Q: DIDN'T THEY TAKE MARINES OFF OF SOME OF THE NAVY SHIPS -- LIKE THE DURHAM AND THE FREDERICK AND SO ON LIKE THAT AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE PIONEER CONTENDER, THE TRANSCOLORADO; THE CHALLENGER AND SO? ARE THESE MARINES AT SUBIC REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE GUYS WHO WERE ON THE CONTRACT SHIPS?

A: THERE ARE 700 MARINES FROM THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 4TH MARINES AND THEY'RE DEPLOYED LIKE THIS: 500 ABOARD THE USS BLUERIDGE AND THE USS DUBUQUE. THE BLUERIDGE IS AT SEA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA; THE DUBUQUE IS IN THE VICINITY OF PHU QUOC ISLAND. OF THE REMAINING 200 OF THAT 700, THERE IS A SECURITY PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3181 UNCLAS

DETACHMENT OF ABOUT 50 MARINES ABOARD THESE FOUR MSC SHIPS. THE AMERICAN CHALLENGER; PIONEER CONTENDER; GREEN PORT AND

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TRANSCOLORADO.

Q: IS THAT 50 EACH?

A: 50 EACH -- THAT GIVES YOU THE 200 AND ADD THAT TO THE 500 AND YOU GET THE 700. THOSE FOUR SHIPS ARE LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING PLACES: THE AMERICAN CHALLENGERS IS AT PHU QUOC, AS IS THE PIONEER CONTENDER AND GREEN PORT; THE TRANSCOLORADO IS AT OR NEAR VUNG TAU.

Q: THIS FIGURE OF 50 YOU USED, POINTS UP AN ANNOYING HABIT YOU HAVE AROUND THIS PLACE. I ASKED ABOUT THIS YESTERDAY, THE SIZE OF DETACHMENTS. I WAS GIVEN A FIGURE BETWEEN 40 AND 60. WHY SOMEBODY COULDN'T HAVE SAID AT THAT TIME IT WAS ABOUT 50. IT'S KIND OF NEEDLESS WAFFLING THAT'S DONE.

A: WE PROBABLY SHOULD DO THAT, FRED (HOFFMAN, AP).

Q: SO TODAY YOU SAY 50?

A: I IMAGINE THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CAUSES US TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT IS BECAUSE THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND HAVE READ SPECIFIC NUMBERS COMING OUT OF THE PENTAGON ABOUT OUR UNITS AND THEN FINDING THAT ACTUALLY WE HAD PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3181 UNCLAS A LITTLE MORE OR LITTLE LESS, THAT MAY CONDITION SOME OF THOSE THINGS. WE REALLY OUGHT TO FOR OUR PURPOSES HERE COME UP WITH ONE FIGURE IF WE KNOW THAT ITS ABOUT A BALLPARK FIGURE.

Q: ARE THERE REPLACEMENTS? WILL THERE BE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE GUYS WHO HAVE GONE ONTO THESE SHIPS?

A: THE DISPERSAL OF THE PEOPLE, THE MARINES ON THESE VARIOUS SHIPS AND AMONG THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS, OCCURRED LAST WEEK AND OVER THE WEEKEND. AND THIS LATEST BATTALION CONSTITUTES A BACK-UP FORCE WHICH REPLACES, IN PART, SOME OF THEM.

Q: I JUST WANT TO RAISE THE QUESTION: YOU KNOW WE ASKED YESTERDAY AND WE WERE TOLD THAT YOU WOULD CHECK ON IT AND I THINK ABOUT HALF OF THE PEOPLE SITTING OUT HERE KNEW THAT THE MARINES WERE ALREADY IN SUBIC AND WERE REPORTING IT AND YOU KNOW WE DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL 6:30 OR 7:00 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT THAT THEY WERE THERE. IF THEY'RE ONLY ON A HUMANITARIAN MISSION, WHY ALL THE SECRECY?

A: WELL, IT WASN'T OUR INTENT TO BE SECRETIVE ABOUT IT PARTICULARLY SINCE THE MOVE FROM OKINAWA TO SUBIC HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE A LUMP ON THAT.

Q: WHEN DID IT HAPPEN, SUNDAY, SATURDAY?

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A: IT WAS OVER THE WEEKEND, WE CAN FIND OUT EXACTLY WHEN.

Q: WHAT'S THE DELAY IN DISPERSING THE ORIGINAL 700 MARINES THAT WENT THERE LAST WEEK ABOARD THE SHIPS? THAT'S THE PURPOSE TO PROVIDE SHIP SECURITY, WHY HAVE THEY ONLY BEEN PUT ON FOUR SHIPS? IS IT THAT DIFFICULT?

A: NO, THEY'RE PUT ON THE SHIPS WHERE THERE IS A NEED FOR THEM. THERE MAY BE SOME ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENT ON OTHER SHIPS LATER.

Q: THERE WAS CERTAINLY A NEED FOR THEM ON THE GREENVILLE VICTORY.

A: THAT WAS WHAT CONVINCED US THAT THERE WAS A NEED.

Q: ARE THEY ARMED BY THE WAY OR ARE THEY JUST MERELY ON WITH RIFLES?

A: THE MARINES THAT ARE ABOARD THOSE SHIPS?

Q: YES, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO ASK A NASTY QUESTION RIGHT AFTERWARDS.

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, THEY HAVE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS BUT WE CAN CHECK AND SEE.

Q: ARE THEY CARRYING ANTI-RIOT WEAPONS, TEARGAS?

A: I DON'T KNOW. WE'LL CHECK AND SEE.

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Q: MY QUESTION IS: IS IT THAT DIFFICULT TO TRANSFER THEM TO THE SHIPS? WEREN'T THEY WITH THE FLEET BEFORE THIS INCIDENT ON THE GREENVILLE VICTORY? WEREN'T THEY ON THE BLUE RIDGE AND DUBUQUE?

A: YES, I BELIEVE THEY WERE.

Q: I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHY THEY HADN'T BEEN PUT ON THE SHIPS.

A: WHY THEY HADN'T BEEN PUT ON ALL OF THE SHIPS.

Q: YES.

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THEY'RE ALREADY ON THE SHIPS WHERE IT APPEARS THEY'RE NEEDED.

Q: THEY WERE ORIGINALLY BROUGHT DOWN ONLY ON THE NAVY SHIPS. THEY WERE BROUGHT DOWN BECAUSE THEY WERE NEEDED BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT OFF DANANG. YOU BROUGHT THEM DOWN AND YOU SEEMED TO HAVE KEPT THEM ON TWO SHIPS -- THE BLUERIDGE AND THE DUBUQUE AND THEN YOU HAD ANOTHER INCIDENT. IT'S NOT A BIG THING, BUT I'M JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHY THE DELAY IN THEIR DISPERSAL.

A: I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHEN THEY WERE PUT ABOARD THOSE FOUR CIVILIAN SHIPS, BUT WE CAN CHECK.

Q: YOU DIDN'T PLAN TO PUT THEM ON BOARD THE CONTRACT SHIPS UNTIL AFTER THE INCIDENT?

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RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

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SECTION 3 OF 4

A: AS I SAY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THE INITIAL THOUGHT WAS THAT THEY WERE ONLY NEEDED ON THOSE FOUR SHIPS AND WHETHER THERE IS A DIFFERENT JUDGMENT RIGHT NOW I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: YOU DIDN'T PUT THEM ON THE CONTRACT SHIPS UNTIL AFTER THERE WAS DISORDER ON THE GREENVILLE VICTORY. THE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE 700 MARINES WERE TO BE DISBURSED AMONG THE FOUR NAVY VESSELS.

A: AMPHIBIOUS VESSELS, RIGHT.

Q: THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF PUTTING THEM ON THE CONTRACT SHIPS?

A: I DON'T THINK IT WAS THOUGHT NECESSARY AT THAT TIME. OF COURSE, EVENTS INDICATED THAT IT WAS. I DON'T THINK THE INTENTION EVER WAS TO PUT THEM ON ALL OF THOSE SHIPS. THEY'RE ASSESSING THE SITUATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY THINK IT'S NECESSARY  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3182 UNCLAS  
AND THEN PUTTING THEM ON THOSE SHIPS WHERE THEY'RE NEEDED, BUT NOT NECESSARILY ALL SHIPS.

Q: ARE WE GOING TO MAINTAIN A FORCE OF MARINES ON ONE OR TWO SHIPS THAT ARE ABOUT 500 -- 1000 IN CASE HELP IS NEEDED IN THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS?

A: ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS?

Q: ANY SHIPS.

A: WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

Q: ARE THE FREDERICK AND DURHAM IN SUBIC NOW?

A: YES, THEY ARE AND SO IS THE CARRIER HANCOCK AND THE CORAL SEA IS ALSO IN SUBIC.

Q: WHERE ARE THOSE FOUR DESTROYERS YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHICH FOUR DESTROYERS I WAS TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WHICH SHIPS ARE AT PHU QUOC AND VUNG TAU AND PLACES LIKE THAT, WE CAN PROBABLY GIVE YOU THAT.

Q: ARE THEY CHANGED FROM YESTERDAY? YOU RAN DOWN THOSE.

A: THERE IS PROBABLY SOME MINOR CHANGE, BUT WE CAN GIVE YOU THAT AFTER THE BRIEFING.

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Q: CAN'T YOU JUST POST IT ON THE BOARD?

A: WHY DON'T WE DO THAT. THAT'S THE SHIPS AT PHU QUOC, VUNG

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TAU AND WE CAN ADD SUBIC TO IT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE ENTERPRISE AND THE MIDWAY?

A: THE ENTERPRISE AND THE MIDWAY ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

Q: THE MIDWAY WAS IN THE VICINITY OF THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY; IS THAT STILL WHERE IT IS?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK AND SEE WHETHER SHE'S STILL IN THAT SUBIC OPERATING AREA.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHAT CAUSED THE C-5 CRASH IN SAIGON?

A: NO, WE DON'T.

Q: IS THERE ANY SIGN OF MOVEMENT OF EITHER SOVIET OR CHINESE SHIPS TOWARD THIS AREA OFF VIETNAM IN RECENT DAYS?

A: TOWARD WHAT AREA, DO YOU MEAN OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM?

Q: OFF THE COAST OF NORTH VIETNAM?

A: WE'LL ASK.

Q: ALSO IS THERE ANY SIGN OF REPLENISHMENT SHIPS FROM EITHER THE CHINESE OR THE SOVIET BLOCK MOVING TOWARD THE NORTHERN PART OF SOUTH VIETNAM WHERE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE TAKEN OVER SOME OF THE PORT AREAS SUCH AS DANANG?

A: WE'LL ASK.

Q: YOU'VE HAD NO WORD OF THEIR UNLOADING EQUIPMENT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

A: I HAVEN'T PERSONALLY, NO. WE'LL ASK.

Q: MIGHT SOME OF THE MARINES IN SUBIC BE LOADED ON THE HANCOCK AND THE CORAL SEA?

A: I'D RATHER NOT DISCUSS THE FUTURE MOVEMENT OF THE MARINES AT SUBIC.

Q: SINCE THE HANCOCK IS LOADED WITH THE BIG HELICOPTERS, IS ITS PRIMARY MISSION THE EVACUATION?

A: OF COURSE, HAVING HELICOPTERS ABOARD ANY SHIPS, A CARRIER OR ANY OTHER SHIP, GIVES YOU AN EVACUATION CAPABILITY.

Q: ARE ANY CARRIERS BEING ADDED TO THE CORAL SEA OR HAVE THEY BEEN ADDED TO THE CORAL SEA OR WILL THEY BE ADDED TO THE CORAL SEA OR WILL THEY BE ADDED TO THE CORAL SEA?

A: WE'LL ASK WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN.

Q: THERE WERE ABOUT 300 MARINES ON THE HANCOCK WHEN WE WERE LAST TOLD; IS THAT STILL TRUE?

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A: THOSE WERE THE PEOPLE FROM THE HELICOPTER SQUADRON.

Q: THERE'S NO CHANGE THEN?

A: WE CAN CHECK.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY WORD AS TO WHETHER ANY OF THOSE SOVIET SHIPS ARE STILL 600 OR 700 MILES AWAY FROM HAWAII ON THAT OCEANOGRAPHIC STUDY?

A: I'M JUST NOT BRIEFED ON IT; WE CAN CHECK.

Q: WHAT SOVIET SHIPS ARE IN THE VICINITY OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS -- NORTHWEST?

A: WE'LL CHECK.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US SOME KIND OF RUNDOWN ON THE KIND OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES THEY ARE BRINGING INTO POSITION AROUND SAIGON, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION. WE DO KNOW THAT ONE OF THEIR DIVISIONS, THE 341ST DIVISION, DID MOVE INTO MR III NORTH OF SAIGON ABOUT A WEEK OR SO AGO.

Q: HAVE THEY USED ANY OF THOSE AIRFIELDS THAT THEY WERE DEVELOPING IN SOUTH VIETNAM? DID THEY MOVE ANYTHING INTO THEM? IS THERE ANY INDICATION OF THEM MOVING AIRCRAFT ACROSS THE DMZ?

A: WE'LL CHECK AND SEE.

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Q: COULD YOU EXPAND THAT TO INCLUDE MOBILE RADAR BEING MOVED SOUTH, PLUS AIRCRAFT?

A: OK.

Q: IF YOU PROVIDE AIRCRAFT FIGURES, MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN AIRPLANES AND HELICOPTERS

A: OK.

Q: THAT BACKUP MARINE BATTALION, DID YOU SAY COULD OR WILL REPLACE SOME OF THOSE 700 MARINES ON THE SHIPS?

A: I WAS ASKED IF THAT WAS A POSSIBILITY, AND I SAID YES.

Q: THEY COULD?

A: I DON'T WANT TO RULE THAT OUT.

Q: HOW MANY TROOPS HAVE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MOVED INTO THE DELTA? ANY NEW DIVISIONS?

A: TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THEY STILL HAVE THREE DIVISIONS IN MR IV AREA.

Q: THAT'S NORTH VIETNAMESE?

A: NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS.

Q: HOW MANY DOES THE SOUTH HAVE THERE?

A: THAT'S ALSO THREE.

Q: WHEN DID THE THIRD DIVISION COME INTO MR IV?

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SECTION 4 OF 4

A: IT'S BEEN THERE.

Q: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE?

A: IT HAS BEEN THERE.

Q: AROUND SAIGON, HOW MUCH OF EACH?

A: I DON'T HAVE MY FIGURES WITH ME BUT WE CAN GET THAT FOR YOU AFTER THE BRIEFING.

Q: WHAT ELSE COULD THE MARINES AT SUBIC DO EXCEPT PROVIDE SHIP SECURITY?

A: I'M JUST NOT GOING TO DISCUSS IT.

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UNCLAS 5488

SECTION 1 OF 4

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART 1. DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY DASDZPA MGEN STOLE,  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: GENERAL WEYAND AT 11:00 O'CLOCK THIS MORN-  
ING WILL BE AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. AT 2:00 O'CLOCK  
HE GOES BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
AND AT 4:00 O'CLOCK GOES BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COM-  
MITTEE.

THIS MORNING, MR. AHEARNE, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY (M&RA) APPEARED BEFORE THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLICIES FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL OVERSEAS.

ADMIRAL TRAIN IS BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3374 UNCLAS

ON THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT OF 1975. FRANK ZARB OF THE FED  
AND NAVY WITNESSES WILL ALSO BE THERE.

WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL MORE STATEMENTS WHICH WILL BE SAID BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERING THE FISCAL '76 PROGRAM. THESE STATEMENTS WILL PROBABLY BE RELEASED ABOUT NOON AND THEY INCLUDE DR. CURRERI WHO'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIFORM SERVICES UNIVERSITY, GENERAL WARREN, GENERAL KEN COOPER, OF THE ARMY ENGINEERS, ETC.

2. WE HAVE THE TRANSCRIPTS OF GENERAL WEYAND'S NEWS INTER-  
VIEWS AFTER HIS TESTIMONY YESTERDAY.

3. RELEASE ON TWO FLAG OFFICER CHANGES TODAY TO ANNOUNCE: ADMIRAL MACK, SUPERINTENDENT OF USNA, WILL RETIRE AS A VICE ADMIRAL ON 1 AUGUST. WE DON'T HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO WHO WILL TAKE HIS PLACE.

4. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IS ALSO ANNOUNCING THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOMINATING RADM PARKER B. ARMSTRONG FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF VICE ADMIRAL AND ASSIGNMENT AS DIRECTOR, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. HE'S PRESENTLY SERVING AS DEPUTY  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3374 UNCLAS  
DIRECTOR.

5. GENERAL BROWN IS BACK IN THE PENTAGON TODAY AFTER HIS

N IS BACK IN THE PENTAGON TODAY AFTER HIS

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TRIP.

6. WE HAVE THE ATTACKS BY FIRE ON POCHENTANG YESTERDAY. 10-105S, 14-107S. I DON'T HAVE TODAYS.

7. ANOTHER QUESTION YOU WERE INTERESTED IN YESTERDAY, WE HAVE TAKEN THE MARINE DETACHMENT OFF THE TRANSCOLORADO AND WE'VE PUT A DETACHMENT ON THE KIMBRO. OTHERWISE THERE ISN'T MUCH CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY IN ALL THOSE.

Q: 1500 ARE STILL IN SUBIC?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE BOXSCORE ON THESE SUPPLY FLIGHTS?

A: SUPPLY FLIGHTS, YESTERDAY, WE HAD 53 AND APPARENTLY THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF TAN SON NHUT HAD NO EFFECT ON THIS. WE TRIED TO RUN THAT DOWN THIS MORNING BUT IT APPARENTLY DID NOT HAVE MUCH EFFECT.

Q: THE 9TH OR THE 8TH?

A: THAT'S THE 8TH. I DON'T HAVE THE 9TH. I HAVE NEITHER THE ROUNDS FIRED NOR THE FLIGHTS FOR TODAY.

Q: THE FIGURE THAT'S BEING QUOTED AS GENERAL WEYAND'S PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3374 UNCLAS

RECOMMENDATION ON MILITARY AID IS \$500-\$550 MILLION TO SOUTH VIETNAM. IS THAT GENERALLY CORRECT THAT THAT IS THE...

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER BUT WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T COMMENT ON THAT UNTIL THE PRESIDENT MAKES HIS ADDRESS.

Q: PEOPLE ARE ALREADY COMMENTING ON THAT, IT'S ON THE PUBLIC RECORD NOW. THE REASON I'M ASKING IS THAT THERE WERE OFFICIALS YESTERDAY WHO WERE SUGGESTING THAT WHAT WEYAND RECOMMENDED WAS A WHOLE RANGE OF MILITARY AID FIGURES AND NOT THE FIGURE THAT HE THOUGHT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE, WASN'T \$500 - \$550 MILLION. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT. ALL I NOTICED WAS THAT GENERAL WEYAND SAID THAT HE COULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT. SO IF HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT, I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD TALK ABOUT IT.

Q: I'M ASKING YOU TO TALK ABOUT IT IN A NEGATIVE SENSE IN TERMS OF WHAT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AS ACCURATE?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT HE SAID THAT: I HAVE NO REASON TO THINK THAT HE DIDN'T SAY IT EITHER. I MEAN I HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE THAT HE HAD SAID IT, I AM BOUND TO NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q: HAVE WE EVER HAD ANY ESTIMATES AS TO HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT WAS REALLY LOST IN THIS RETREAT? WAS IT A BILLION DOLLARS?

A: WE'RE STILL WORKING ON THAT; I EXPECT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A FIGURE BEFORE TOO LONG.

Q: WOULD THIS LOSS HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE REVISION OF THE \$300 MILLION EXTRA THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED SOME WEEKS AGO?

A: YOU COULD LOGICALLY SAY THAT IT MIGHT. IT WOULD PERHAPS NOT BE THE SAME \$300 MILLION BUT I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. ALL OF THIS IS GOING TO BECOME CLEAR HERE IN THE

NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, BUT IT ISN'T RIGHT NOW.

Q: IS THERE ANY ESTIMATE TO WHAT THE VIETNAMESE NEED URGENTLY NOW; WHETHER THEY NEED REPLACEMENT OF ARTILLERY, TANKS, ETC.

A: AS YOU KNOW WE ARE DELIVERING WHAT THE DEFENSE ATTACHE SAYS THEY NEED URGENTLY NOW AND AS WE'VE DISCUSSED BEFORE, WE'VE PUT IN 105 HOWITZERS, WE'VE PUT IN APCS, CONSIDERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, ETC. THESE HAVE BEEN THE KIND OF ADDED STARTERS THAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF THIS THING WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 3374 UNCLAS

Q: DID YOU EVER GET A BREAKDOWN ON THE \$175 MILLION; HOW MUCH WENT TO WHAT?

A: NO. I THINK BOB (BURKE) MENTIONED YESTERDAY THAT ALTHOUGH ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN OBLIGATED, A GREAT PORTION OF IT CAN BE REPROGRAMMED AND OF COURSE, THAT'S ALSO GOING TO WAIT THIS DECISION ON THE NSC MEETING TODAY AND THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. SO THERE'S REALLY NOTHING THAT WE COULD SAY ABOUT THAT. YOU COULD SAY THAT'S MOST OF THE \$175 MILLION, IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR REPROGRAMMING.

Q: WHAT'S THE EVALUATION AS TO WHETHER THE ARVN ARE RE-GROUPING AND STABILIZING THEIR POSITIONS AND SHOWING ANY IMPROVEMENT IN MORALE?

A: THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO TALK ABOUT AT THIS POINT BECAUSE THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY REAL TEST IN THE SOUTH YET. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE'RE HOPEFUL.

Q: THE ATTACKS ON SAIGON DON'T REPRESENT A TEST?

A: NOT YET. I COULDN'T GET ANY INFORMATION ON THE XUAN LOC ATTACK; THE ONE AT TAN AN WAS DEFEATED. THE RENEMY WAS DRIVEN AWAY. IT WAS NOT A BIG ATTACK. I DON'T THINK EITHER ONE IS. I'D SAY YOU HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT ON THAT.

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SECTION 2 OF 4

Q: ANY INFORMATION ON NORTH VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT THAT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE SOUTH AND HOW MANY?

A: WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY COMBAT AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE SOUTH.

Q: WHAT OTHER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MOVED?

A: WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE SOUTH. WE DO HAVE INDICATION THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS OVER THE DNZ.

Q: THEY HAVEN'T MOVED HELICOPTERS OR TRANSPORTS?

A: NOTHING BUT ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS? NOW THESE ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS COULD BE BY HELICOPTER OR FIXED WING.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS THEY BRING PEOPLE IN AND THEN BRING THEM OUT.

THAT'S AN ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT?

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3375 UNCLAS

A: THAT'S RIGHT. MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE, PRIMARILY.

Q: THERE'S A STORY TODAY THAT SOME NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE MOVING SOME PT BOATS WITH ROCKET MISSILES ON THEM TO AREAS NEAR SOUTH VIETNAM. I THINK IS THE WAY IT WAS PHRASED.

A: I WOULDN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

Q: THEY'RE NOT PT BOATS, ARE THEY?

A: NO, I THINK IT'S A MIXTURE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT MOVEMENT OF AIRCRAFT FROM NORTH IN NORTH VIETNAM TO MORE SOUTHERLY AREAS IN NORTH VIETNAM?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, I COULD ANSWER IT AS OF TWO DAYS AGO, BUT I CAN'T ANSWER IT AS OF TODAY.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PT BOATS, WHERE THEY WERE MOVED TO AND WHETHER THEY . . . ?

A: DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS.

Q: ARE THEY CONSIDERED TO BE A THREAT TO THE EVACUATION SHIPS?

A: NO, BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T ANY EVACUATION SHIPS UP THAT FAR NORTH. NOW A POTENTIAL THREAT, OBVIOUSLY, THEY'RE A POTENTIAL THREAT.

Q: TO SHIPS?

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3375 UNCLAS

A: TO ANY KIND OF SHIPPING.

Q: ARE THEY IN SOUTH VIETNAM AREAS?

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A: I DON'T THINK SO BUT I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: WHERE ARE THEY AGAIN?

A: THEY'VE MOVED SOUTH BUT THE ACTUAL LOCATION SOUTH I DON'T HAVE.

Q: CAN YOU SAY WHETHER ANY OF THE RECENT CAPTURED AIRFIELDS LIKE DANANG AIRFIELD NEAR HUE, QUAN TRI, PLEIKU, KONTOM, OTHER AIRFIELDS FURTHER SOUTH HAVE BEEN USED IN ANY WAY BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE?

A: MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT DANANG HAS, BUT LET ME TAKE IT AND GIVE YOU AN OFFICIAL ANSWER.

Q: THERE WERE REPORTS FROM SAIGON THAT THEY HAD MOVED SOME HELICOPTERS IN THERE, WERE THOSE INCORRECT?

A: MY INFORMATION IS THAT THEY ARE INCORRECT. THEY'VE MOVED THEM IN BUT NOT TO STAY. THIS DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN, WE'RE TALKING ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS ON THIS THING. WHAT I'VE SAID IS THAT WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT THERE WERE ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHTS, BOTH HELICOPTER AND FIXED WING, AND THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT THAT AT THIS POINT.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3375 UNCLAS

Q: HAVE THEY FLOWN ANY OF THOSE AIRCRAFT WHICH THEY CAPTURED INTACT, READY TO FLY AT DANANG, FOR INSTANCE?

A: I CAN'T NECESSARILY ACCEPT YOUR PREMISE BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HOW MANY FLIGHTS, OVER 10, UNDER 10, OVER 50, WHAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT EITHER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE F-5 WHICH BOMBED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE YESTERDAY LANDED AT U.S. AIR FORCE BASE IN THAILAND?

A: I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THAT. I CAN ANSWER THAT I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT THAT LEADS TO THAT CONCLUSION.

Q: THE VIET CONG ANNOUNCED THAT HE LANDED AT ONE OF THE FIELDS IN THEIR AREA.

A: HE LANDED IN THEIR AREA?

Q: DO WE HAVE OFFICIALLY ANY DETAILS ON THAT?

A: NO. I THINK YOUR BEST CHOICE THERE IS YOUR SAIGON BUREAU, THEY SURELY HAVE IT.

Q: AN ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT IS WHAT, JUST A MOVEMENT OF OFFICERS OR WHAT?

A: IT SOMETIMES IS A MOVEMENT OF THINGS OR PEOPLE, THAT'S WHAT WE CALL IT. THIS IS NOT A BIG THING AT THIS POINT. I CAN SAY THAT.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT SMALL TRANSPORT PLANES THEY MIGHT HAVE OR LARGER TRANSPORT PLANES THEY MIGHT HAVE.

A: I CAN GET THAT FOR YOU. I DON'T HAVE THE DESIGNATIONS. THEY DO HAVE SOME SMALL TRANSPORT PLANES.

Q: THOSE PT BOATS, ARE THEY KOMAR CLASS AND FIRES STYX MISSILES -- SMALL NUMBER.

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATOR AS TO HOW THE NORTH VIETNAMESE

ARE DOING ADMINISTERING THEIR NEW-FOUND REAL ESTATE?

A: NO, NOT YET. THIS IS A LITTLE EARLY TO GET ANY HARD INFORMATION ON THAT.

Q: IS THERE ANY INFORMATION THAT THERE IS A 'BLOODBATH' IN ANY OF THESE AREAS?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION, THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I'M NOT SAYING THERE IS OR THERE ISN'T, WE JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE ORDERS TO THE U.S. SHIPS IN THE AREA, DO THEY REMAIN THE SAME? THAT IS TO SAY THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD TO AVOID SITUATIONS OF POTENTIAL COMBAT.

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A: THERE IS NO CHANGE IN ORDERS TO THE SHIPS.

Q: ARE YOU SAYING THAT THERE IS NO INFORMATION IN THIS BUILDING REGARDING EXECUTIONS AND POLITICAL REPRISALS?

A: THERE MAY BE SOME. I HAVEN'T SEEN IT AND WHEN IT BECOMES REASONABLY HARD IS WHEN I'D SEE IT. THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANYTHING HARD ON IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION BUT I THINK WE'RE TOO EARLY. THIS SORT OF THING UNDER THE PRESENT SITUATION OBVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE TO FILTER IN.

Q: THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO CAME BACK WITH GENERAL WEYAND WHO SAID THAT THEY HAD EVIDENCE OF THIS POLITICAL REPRISALS AND SO FORTH, IT'S KNOWN UPSTAIRS.

A: WELL, IT ISN'T KNOWN TO ME. I'M SORRY TO SAY BUT LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON THE C-5 CRASH INVESTIGATION?

A: NOT YET.

Q: NO WORD AT ALL. NO EVIDENCE OF ANY EXPLOSION?

A: WE THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY WELL ESTABLISHED THAT THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE AFTER IT HIT THE GROUND, OTHER THAN THE BT

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SG-CALLED DECOMPRESSION EXPLOSION.

Q: NOTHING TO CONTRADICT THAT?

A: NOTHING TO CONTRADICT IT YET, BUT OF COURSE THEY AREN'T THROUGH. THEY DID FIND THE BOX THAT RECORDED ALL THE ACTIONS AND COMMANDS BUT THERE'S NO REPORT FROM THE INVESTIGATING GROUP.

Q: CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON NEWSDAY STORY ON THE GAO REPORT ABOUT MISSING EQUIPMENT?

A: THE BEST I CAN DEDUCE IS THAT THIS IS A REPORT THAT THE GAO HAS GIVEN TO US FOR COMMENT ABOUT A WEEK AGO, AND WE HAVE NOT YET COMMENTED ON IT. CONSEQUENTLY, I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT EITHER. I THINK THAT'S THE REPORT, IT'S A LITTLE HAZY BUT I THINK THAT'S THE ONE. IT DOES SEEM TO ADD UP TO ABOUT \$200 MILLION IN A NUMBER OF SMALLER ITEMS PUT TOGETHER.

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3376 UNCLAS

Q: HAS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE MOUNTED ANY ATTACKS ON ANY OF THE AIRFIELDS OR BASES WHICH THEY GAVE UP, FOR INSTANCE DANANG, TO TRY TO ELIMINATE THE EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY LEFT BEHIND.

A: I THINK THE ANSWER TO THAT IS YES, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE ON WHAT, BASED ON THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE, TRAFFIC ETC. AND WHAT MILITARY ANALYSTS IN THE PENTAGON SAY ABOUT WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STRATEGY IS CURRENTLY ON THE GROUND IN SOUTH VIETNAM? WHAT DO THEY THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN? WHAT ARE THEY DOING RIGHT NOW?

A: I WOULD HESITATE TO COMMENT ON THAT. THE ANALYSTS HAVE DIFFERENT POSITIONS AND I THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR ME TO DISCUSS THAT AT THIS POINT.

Q: TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS?

A: I THINK THE OPTIONS ARE REASONABLY OBVIOUS. THIS HAS BEEN WELL DISCUSSED IN MANY COLUMNS SO FAR: THEY CAN RUSH SOUTH, ATTEMPT TO OVERWHELM THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; THEY CAN TRY TO CUT OFF SUPPLY AND SEE IF SAIGON

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3376 UNCLAS

WILL WITHER ON THE VINE THEREBY SAVING SOME COMBAT; THEY CAN TAKE TIME TO MOP UP THEIR GAINS IN THE NORTH BEFORE THEY

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MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT SOUTH. THERE'RE SEVERAL OPTIONS OPEN.

Q: DOES IT APPEAR FROM AN INTELLIGENCE TRAFFIC AS IF THEY'RE ATTEMPTING TO CUT OFF SAIGON FROM THE SOUTH AND ISO-LATE IT?

A: IT ISN'T CLEAR YET, IT JUST ISN'T CLEAR.

Q: ARE THEY MOVING ANY MORE UNITS DOWN FROM THE NORTH?

A: WE MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY, THAT THERE WAS REASONABLY GOOD EVIDENCE THAT ONE DIVISION WAS MOVING INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AND THAT'S AS FAR AS I CAN GO WITH THAT.

Q: THAT'S ALL BE TOTALING WHAT NOW, HOW MANY DIVISIONS?

A: THE WAY I ADDED UP, IT'LL COME TO 18 DIVISIONS.

Q: THEY'RE SAYING 20, IS THAT TOO HIGH?

A: I KNOW THERE AREN'T 20 IN THE COUNTRY NOW, IT'S TOO HIGH.

Q: SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT?

A: THEY DO SAY THAT BUT I DON'T. AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS A VERY HAZY AREA.

Q: WE'VE BEEN HEARING FIGURES ALL ALONG OF 21 NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS TOTAL SOUTH AND NORTH. A FOURTH HAS SHOWN UP, IS PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3376 UNCLAS THAT AN ADD-ON.

A: WE'VE BEEN CARRYING 22 AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER -- I MEAN RECENTLY. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION BUT MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT IT WAS 22 TOTAL.

Q: ANOTHER DIVISION OF WHAT USED TO BE INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS.

A: THERE'S BEEN SOME OF THAT AND THAT'S PROBABLY BEEN THE SOURCE OF CONFUSION WHERE THEY PUT TOGETHER FORMERLY INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS AND MADE THOSE INTO DIVISIONS.

Q: AFTER THEY WERE ORGANIZED AND ALL THOSE REGIMENTS BECAME DIVISIONS, SUPPOSEDLY HAD 15 IN-COUNTRY AND SEVEN RESERVE, IS THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT.

A: THAT'S THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT -- 22.

Q, THEN UP UNTIL, WELL IN RECENT DAYS, I THINK THE ESTIMATE'S BEEN THAT THREE AND NOW PROBABLY THE FOURTH OF THE RESERVE DIVISIONS HAVE COME IN WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EITHER 18 OR . . . .

A: WE'VE PUT OUT A FACT SHEET SOME DAYS AGO WHICH SHOWED 18 AND REMEMBER THAT INCLUDED THE 341ST, WHICH WAS A NEW ONE, AND THE 316TH, WHICH WAS A NEW ONE. WHAT I'M SAYING NOW IS THAT WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS STILL ANOTHER ONE. PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 3376 UNCLAS

Q: WHAT NUMBERS?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE NUMBER.

Q: DID THE 968TH COUNT IN THE 15?

A: THE 968TH DID COUNT.

Q: AS ONE OF THE 15 OR ONE OF THOSE STRATEGIC RESERVES.

A: COUNT IT AS ONE OF THE 15. IF YOU RECALL THE 968TH WAS REPORTED MOVED INTO THE SECOND CORPS FROM SAO MANY WEEKS AGO.

Q: YOU'RE SAYING THREE OF THE STRATEGIC RESERVE HAVE COME IN?

A: THAT'S WHAT I AM SAYING -- OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

Q: HOW MANY INTACT DIVISIONS DO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE NOW TO OPPOSE THOSE PEOPLE?

A: THEY'VE GOT SEVEN, BUT THEY'VE GOT SOME DIVISION EQUIVALENTS. REMEMBER THEY ORGANIZED A LOT OF THEIR REGULARS INTO WHAT THEY CALL RANGER GROUPS, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS SEVEN. THERE ARE FOUR IN THIRD CORPS AND THREE IN FOURTH CORPS.

Q: SO IN TERMS OF MANPOWER, ARE THEY OUTNUMBERED TWO TO ONE?

A: YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT OUTNUMBERED WHERE? IF YOU TAKE ALL OF VIETNAM, AS GENERAL WEYAND DID SAY YESTERDAY, THAT. . . .  
PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 3376 UNCLAS

Q: LET'S SAY THE DELTA AND THE SAIGON AREA, THE THIRD CORPS, IF THEY HAVE SEVEN DIVISIONS PROTECTING THAT AND YOU HAVE TO ASSUME THAT 18 DIVISIONS ARE GOING TO BE . . .

A: I WOULD JUST REFER YOU TO WHAT GENERAL WEYAND SAID ON THAT. HE GAVE BETWEEN TWO AND THREE TO ONE IN FAVOR OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, COUNTRY-WIDE, THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, POTENTIAL.

Q: AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE NORTH VIETNAMESE STILL HAVE FOUR RESERVE DIVISION EQUIVALENTS IN THE NORTH?

A: CORRECT.

Q: WHAT ARE THE NVA ASSETS IN THE DELTA, AS FAR AS WE KNOW?

A: WE CREDIT THEM WITH THREE DIVISIONS DOWN THERE.

Q: WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN IN TERMS OF AN OFFENSIVE THERE? THERE'S A DIFFERENT TERRAIN PROBLEM AND THEY HAVE MORE OF A PROBLEM WITH MONSOON AND WHAT NOT, DON'T THEY?

A: YES AND OF COURSE THE TERRAIN DOWN THERE DOESN'T LEND ITSELF TO WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL SET-PAKE BATTLES EXCEPT IN A FEW LOCATIONS.

Q: YOU TALKED ABOUT CUTTING OFF SAIGON FROM THE SOUTH, IT'S REALLY QUITE A DIFFERENT PICTURE THAN ANYTHING THAT'S  
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SECTION 4 OF 4

HAPPENED UP TO NOW?

A: OF COURSE, THEY'VE ATTEMPTED TO CUT SAIGON OFF FROM THE SOUTH IN THE PAST ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

Q: THEY TEND TO SET-PAVE H THAT WAY.

A: A LOT OF PEOPLE SAY THEY'RE CUTTING IT OFF WHEN THEY CUT ROUTE 4 AND OF COURSE THAT ISN'T CORRECT.

Q: ON THESE RESERVE DIVISIONS, A FEW DAYS AGO THE INDICATIONS WERE THAT TWO OTHERS WERE EXPECTED TO MOVE SOUTH -- AT LEAST TWO OTHERS. THE CONFUSION HERE THAT TWO OTHERS ARE INDEED MOVING SOUTH BUT IT'S NOT CLEAR THAT THEY'RE IN THE SOUTH YET?

A: I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS POINT.

Q: HOW RECENTLY DID THIS ONE THAT'S MOVING IN OR THAT'S IN THE SOUTH, IS IT PRESENTLY MOVING OR DID IT MOVE IN IN THE PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3377 UNCLAS LAST WEEK?

A: I THINK WE FIRST MENTIONED IT FROM THIS PLATHFORM ABOUT A WEEK AGO OR SO. IT'S REASONABLY RECENT.

Q: YOU SAID A LOT OF DIVISIONS ARE MOVING TO THE SOUTH, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON NVA DIVISIONS MOVING WITHIN VIETNAM; ANY INDICATION THAT THEY MAY BE MOVING TOWARD THIS?

A: THIS FALLS INTO YOUR OTHER QUESTION ABOUT THE STRATEGY. IT ISN'T CLEAR YET EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS POINT. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT COULDN'T CHANGE OVER NIGHT.

Q: SOME OF OUR PEOPLE IN HAWAII SAY THAT THERE WERE SIX VESSELS; THE DENVER, THE DULUTH, ANCHORAGE, MOUNT VERNON, MOBILE AND TUSCULDOOSA, ALL LSD, LST AND LTDS DEPARTED PEARL HARBOR SUNDAY NIGHT WITH CONFIRMED ORDERS TO EVACUATE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

A: I DO NOT. BUT I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION. OF COURSE THIS COULD BE PART OF THE PROGRAM WE HAVE GOING TO BE PREPARED FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, TO JUST BE READY, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: CONFIRMED ORDERS TO EVACUATE, YOU KNOW, THAT SEEMS TO PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3377 UNCLAS ME AS IF. . . .

A: I JUST DON'T BELIEVE THAT THAT'S CORRECT, BUT I'LL

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TAKE THE QUESTION. I DON'T DOUBT THAT THEY MAY HAVE MOVED, I DON'T KNOW. BUT THAT KIND OF ORDER WOULDN'T BE THE KIND OF ORDER THEY'D GET. THAT'S NOT A NORMAL ORDER ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SHIPPING THEM OUT OF PEARL HARBOR. IT'S A LONG TIME UNTIL THEY GET TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Q: WHAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE PROVIDED FOR US VERY SOON AND PREFERABLY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT MAKES HIS SPEECH, IS WHAT HAS THE NAVY DONE ABOUT GETTING ALL OF THOSE NAVY SHIPS OUT TO THE VIETNAM AREA AFTER THE PRESIDENT HAD ORDERED THEM.

A: OF COURSE, I THINK BOB (BURKE) COVERED THAT YESTERDAY. THERE'RE A LOT OF SHIPS OUT THERE.

Q: NOT AS IMPRESSIVELY AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

A: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO, LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK)?

1: WELL I EXPECTED A BIG WHITE FLEET MOVING UP AND DOWN THE SHORE.

A: THE PRESIDENT SAID ALL AVAILABLE SHIPS, GET READY TO ASSIST.

Q: THAT SOUNDED LIKE A (INAUDIBLE)?

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3377 UNCLAS

A: THAT'S YOUR INTERPRETATION, I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT'S OUR INTERPRETATION.

Q: I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT SOUNDED LIKE TO YOU, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE WE WOULD HAVE MORE THAN A FEW SHIPS STANDING OFF THE VIETNAM COAST?

A: WE THINK WE'RE EFFECTIVELY CARRYING OUT THE PRESIDENT'S ORDER.

Q: ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING OUR U.S. MARINES ON THESE MERCHANT SHIPS?

A: NO, NONE REPORTED.

Q: THE MARINE'S HOLDING STEADY?

A: STILL THE SAME NUMBER.

Q: ARE THERE ANY MORE SHIPS DUE TO SAIL OUT TO THE SOUTH CHINESE SEA OR VIETNAM WATERS?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF SHIPS IN THE AREA. I THINK YOU ALL SHOULD UNDERSTAND THERE'RE AN AWFUL LOT OF NAVY SHIPS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. IF THE SITUATION SHOULD REQUIRE THEY COULD BEEF IT UP IN A HURRY.

Q: HAVE WE GOT ANY NEW ESTIMATE ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EVACUATED?

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 3377 UNCLAS

A: I DON'T HAVE IT HERE, IT'S OVER 100,000 - LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: WHAT IS DOD REACTION TO THE STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW US TO USE THE AZORES?

A: I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT. THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: ARE YOU REFERRING US TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE?

A: I'M NOT REFERRING YOU TO ANYBODY.

Q: WHAT SOVIET SHIPS ARE NORTHWEST OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A: THOSE TWO OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS THAT YOU ASKED ABOUT YESTERDAY ARE STILL ABOUT 750 MILES NORTHWEST OF HAWAII.

Q: ARE DOING ANYTHING THAT WE CAN DETECT?

A: I ASKED ABOUT THAT AND WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO REPORT EXCEPT THEY'RE THERE.

Q: IS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE TRAWLER OR IS THAT GONE?

A: NO.

Q: ARE THEY STATIONARY OR MILLING AROUND?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, I ASSUME MILLING AROUND.  
PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 3377 UNCLAS

I CAN VOUCH FOR TWO SOVIET SHIPS, OCEANOGRAPHIC TRAWLER TYPES, WHICH ARE APPROXIMATELY 750 MILES NORTHWEST OF HAWAII THAT'S THE EXTENT OF MY INFORMATION ON THAT. ONE'S CALLED THE MB-11 AND ONE'S CALLED THE MB-26.

Q: THE MB-11 IS THE ONE THAT WAS IN HAWAII BEFORE.

A: COULD BE.

Q: ARE THESE SOVIET BOATS THAT HAVE MOVED ALITTLE BIT SOUTH, ARE THEY IN THE SAME KOMAR CLASS?

A: NOT SOVIET BOATS, WE'RE NOT TALKING SOVIET BOATS, THESE ARE NORTH VIETNAMESE BOATS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. I HAVE NO MORE TO SAY ON THAT SUBJECT EXCEPT WHAT I'VE SAID.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY DESTROYERS NEAR THE TONKIN GULF?

A: NO.

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SECTION 1 OF 3

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY COL BURKE. MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975, 11:30 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: LIST OF WITNESSES IS ON THE WIRES. WE WILL HAVE COPIES OF THE STATEMENTS BY MARTIN HOFFMANN, GENERAL COUNSEL, AND DR. CURRIE'S WHEN THE COMMITTEES RELEASE THEM. ALSO ONE BY MR. BREHM, ASD/M&RA.

2. IN YOUR PACKAGE IS A RELEASE THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY'S APPROVAL OF PLANS TO REALIGN SOME ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS. YOU'LL REMEMBER BACK IN DECEMBER THE ARMY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A JOINT PROPOSAL FROM PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW YORK TO REALIGN THEIR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS. TODAY THE ARMY IS ANNOUNCING THAT THE REALIGNMENT HAS  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3801 UNCLAS

BEEN APPROVED. THIS REALIGNS SOME OF THE DIVISION'S COMMAND STRUCTURES SO THAT THE 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION, FOR EXAMPLE, IS MADE UP SOLELY OF UNITS WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA; 42ND DIVISION WILL INCLUDE ONLY UNITS IN NEW YORK, ET.

3. YOU HAVE THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SECRETARY TODAY! TOMORROW NIGHT HE WILL BE SPEAKING AT THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AT THE BILTMORE HOTEL IN NEW YORK CITY. THERE'S A DINNER AT 7:30 AND HIS SPEECH IS SCHEDULED FOR 8:30.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF HE'LL APPEAR ON THE HILL TOMORROW?

A: I DON'T THINK SO. WE'LL BE WATCHING THAT.

Q: WHO WILL REPRESENT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE STENNIS COMMITTEE?

A: WE'LL CHECK AND SEE.

4. YOU HAVE COPIES OF THE MESSAGE THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SENT EARLY SATURDAY MORNING TO ADMIRAL GAYLER FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST HELICOPTER FROM PHNOM PENH TO THE TASK FORCE. THE MESSAGE READS AS FOLLOWS:

I KNOW THAT ALL AMERICANS SHARE THE PRIDE AND GRATITUDE THAT WE FEEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OVER THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OPERATION WHICH THE FORCES OF YOUR COMMAND HAVE JUST COMPLETED IN CAMBODIA. THE PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT THIS EMERGENCY RESCUE OPERATION MARKED

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BY GREAT PRECISION AND THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID CIVIL-  
IAN CASUALTIES, WERE EXEMPLARY. WELL DONE.'

5. ON SATURDAY WE PRODUCED A TRANSCRIPT OF A PRESS CON-  
FERENCE THAT ADMIRAL GAYLER HAD IN HONOLULU TO ANSWER QUES-  
TIONS ABOUT THE OPERATION. I THINK YOU HAVE THAT.

Q: ARE YOU STILL AIRLIFTING SUPPLIES INTO CAMBODIA?

A: NO, JOHN (FINNEY, NYTIMES), THERE'S NO AIRLIFT INTO  
CAMBODIA. THERE ARE SOME FLIGHTS INTO CAMBODIA WHICH ARE  
AIRDROPS. THE LAST AIRLIFT WAS FRIDAY, CAMBODIA TIME, WHICH  
INCLUDED 50 FLIGHTS. SINCE THAT TIME THERE WAS ONE AIRDROP  
ON SATURDAY -- THAT IS, APRIL 12 -- AND SIX AIRDROPS ON APRIL 13,  
AND TEN AIRDROPS ON APRIL 14.

Q: DOES IT SAY WHAT THEY'RE DROPPING?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE A BREAKOUT OF WHAT THEY'RE DROPPING.

Q: WHO'S DOING IT?

A: IT'S BEING DONE BY C-130S FLOWN BY AIRD AIR.

Q: IS THIS AT PHNOM PENH?

A: TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT AT PHNOM PENH

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3801 UNCLAS

AT THIS TIME.

Q: ARE THEY GOING TO THE AIRPORT OR TO THE CITY ITSELF?

A: NOT INTO THE PHNOM PENH AREA AT ALL; IT'S OTHER  
LOCATIONS.

HQ: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TOTAL TONNAGE WAS ON ALL THESE DROPS?

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: WHERE ARE THE LOCATIONS?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT.

Q: CAN YOU GET THAT STRAIGHTENED OUT?

A: WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET THAT.

Q: WAS IT IN THE AREA?

A: IT'S NOT IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA. IT'S IN CAMBODIA AT  
SOME OF THE OTHER PLACES WHERE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE.

Q: IS THAT IN BATTAMBANG OR OTHER PLACES LIKE THAT?

A: YES, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER BATTAMBANG IS ONE. WE  
CAN CHECK AND SEE.

Q: IS IT FOOD OR AMMUNITION, OR WHAT?

A: I JUST SAID I DON'T HAVE A BREAKOUT.

Q: DID YOU SAY THAT THESE WERE NOT IN PHNOM PENH?

A: FOR THE FOURTH TIME, THEY'RE NOT IN PHNOM PENH.

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 3801 UNCLAS

Q: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY NOT PHNOM PENH?

A: I'LL CHECK.

Q: ARE THESE SUPPLIES GETTING TO THE FORCE IN PHNOM PENH  
BY SOME OTHER WAY?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK SO. THEY'RE INTENDED FOR OTHER GOVERN-  
MENT FORCES IN CAMBODIA WHICH ARE OPERATING AT OTHER LOCATIONS.  
NOT AT PHNOM PENH.

Q: HOW MANY TROOPS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: IS THE FIGHTING STILL GOING ON IN PHNOM PENH?

A: APPARENTLY IT IS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY MEANS OF REPORTING FROM THE GROUND DOWN THERE?

A: WE DON'T HAVE ANYBODY ON THE GROUND. I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE OUT THERE. I DON'T HAVE ANY HERE AT THIS TIME.

Q: ARE YOU SAYING THE GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE STILL RESISTING IN OTHER AREAS?

A: YES.

Q: AND THE PENTAGON BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE SUFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED TO RESIST SO THEREFORE WE'RE CONTINUING THE SUPPORT OF THAT RESISTANCE, IS THAT RIGHT?

A: YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: HAVE THESE FORCES FIGHTING IN OTHER LOCATIONS BEEN SUPPLIED BY AIRDROPS BEFORE NOW?

A: ALL ALONG, YES. IN FACT, BIRD AIR HAS BEEN USING AIRDROP IN ADDITION TO THE AIRLANDING FOR SOME TIME.

Q: COULD YOU SAY HOW LONG THIS MODE OF SUPPLY TO THESE FORCES HAS BEEN GOING ON AND AT WHAT FREQUENCY?

A: WELL, IT'S BEEN MONTHS THAT THIS HAS BEEN USED, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON IT. BUT WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN GET.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANYBODY ON THE GROUND IN ANY OF THESE OTHER AREAS THAT WE CAN CONTACT?

A: NO.

Q: HOW DO WE KNOW THEN WHAT THEY WANT OR WHAT THEY NEED? HOW IS THE COMMUNICATION CONDUCTED?

A: I'LL BE GLAD TO CHECK AND SEE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHEN THE AIRDROPS INTO PHNOM PENH WILL START?

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: ANY PLANS ALONG THAT LINE RIGHT NOW?

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SECTION 2 OF 3

A: I'LL CHECK AND SEE.

Q: WHO DECIDED THAT AIRDROP SHOULD BEGIN -- BIRD AIR OR THE PENTAGON OR DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OR WHO?

A: I'M SURE IT WAS DONE BY EVERYBODY INVOLVED IN IT IN VIEW OF THE ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION AT PHNOM PENH, AT THE AIRFIELD.

Q: DID YOU SAY THESE AIRDROPS HAVE BEEN GOING ON ALL ALONG?

A: YES, THE CAMBODIANS ALSO WERE AIRDROPPING SUPPLIES WITH C-123S.

Q: WHY DO WE ALL OF A SUDDEN START COUNTING THEM IF THEY'VE BEEN GOING ON ALL ALONG?

A: WE'VE BEEN COUNTING THEM ALL ALONG; YOU'VE BEEN ASKING US THE DAILY FIGURES ABOUT FLIGHTS THAT LANDED -- AIRLANDED AT PONCHENTONG -- AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVING YOU.

Q: WE'VE NEVER BEEN GIVEN ANY FIGURES ON AIRDROPS UP UNTIL PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3802 UNCLAS THIS WEEKEND.

A: WE HAVE NEVER TRIED TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THERE WERE AIRDROPS THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT OF SHIPS OR PLANES DOWN TO CLARK OR SOUTHERN SOUTH CHINA SEA FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES?

A: WE HAVE HAD FOR SOME TIME A NUMBER OF SEVENTH FLEET SHIPS IN THAT AREA. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY MOVEMENT OF AIRPLANES DOWN FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE SHIPS THAT LEFT FROM HAWAII, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS FIVE OR SEVEN, ABOUT A WEEK AGO THAT WAS SUPPOSEDLY A NORMAL ROTATION? HAVE THE SHIPS THAT THEY WERE GOING TO REPLACE RETURNED OR ARE THEY STAYING OVER THERE?

A: THESE ARE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS YOU ARE TAKING ABOUT?

Q: YES.

A: WE'LL CHECK AND SEE.

Q: HAS THE OKINAWA RETURNED TO THE NORTH PACIFIC?

A: THE OKINAWA AND THE MIDWAY ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA; THEY ARE NOT TOGETHER, I'M JUST TELLING YOU THAT THEY ARE BOTH IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA; SO IS THE CORAL SEA. THE HANCOCK WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH IS IN THE PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3802 UNCLAS

GULF OF THAILAND AND THE ENTERPRISE IS IN PORT AT SUBIC.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT OF MARINES INTO

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THE GENERAL AREA OF SUBIC BAY, INDOCHINA, ETC.?

A: NO.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE STILL AT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 MARINES IN THE GENERAL AREA?

A: THAT'S RIGHT

Q: WHEN'S THE ENTERPRISE GOING BACK TO SUBIC?

A: WE CAN CHECK. I DON'T RECALL. YOU MEAN BETWEEN NOW AND LAST FRIDAY?

Q: I THINK THE LAST TIME YOU HAD IT REPORTED IN . . .

A: SHE WAS IN SUBIC ON THE 11TH.

Q: LAST FRIDAY THERE WERE FOUR AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS WITH BLUE RIDGE, I BELIEVE THE COMMAND SHIPS, WITH HANCOCK; IS THAT STILL THE CASE?

A: THE COMPOSITION OF THE TASK GROUPINGS VARIES FROM DAY TO DAY, AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT. THERE ARE OTHER SHIPS WITH THE HANCOCK.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THOSE FOUR AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS ARE?

A: SOME OF THEM ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND SOME ARE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3802 UNCLAS STILL IN THE GULF OF THAILAND.

Q: WHICH ARE WHERE -- THE DURHAM, THE FREDERICK, BLUE RIDGE AND DUBUQUE?

A: THE DURHAM AND FREDERICK ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. BLUE RIDGE AND DUBUQUE ARE IN THE GULF OF THAILAND.

Q: CAN I BROADEN THAT EARLIER QUESTION? IS THERE ANY MOVEMENT TO INCLUDE ARMY TROOPS AS WELL?

A: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF, BUT WE'LL CHECK.

Q: WHAT'S THE OFFICIAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: THE LAST FIGURE I RECALL IS AROUND 5,000 BUT WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK. STATE CAN TELL YOU THAT DEFINITELY. WE'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE THE QUESTION BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW. I RECALL SOMETHING AROUND 5,000.

Q: AS OF WHEN?

A: I HEARD THAT FIGURE THE END OF THE LAST WEEK. I'M NOT TELLING YOU THAT'S AN ACCURATE FIGURE: I'M SAYING I'LL CHECK IT.

Q: SOME ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE LEVEL OF AMERICANS IN VIETNAM WOULD BE DRAWN DOWN TO A MINIMAL LEVEL -- WHAT IS A MINIMAL LEVEL?

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 3802 UNCLAS

A: WE'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: THE CAMBODIANS, BATTAMBANG IN PARTICULAR, WERE GETTING SUPPLIES BY ROAD FOR A LONG TIME; IS THAT STILL GOING ON?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS OR NOT; WE'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: THERE WERE REPORTS ABOUT A WEEK OR SO AGO THAT NHA TRANG AFTER BEING ABANDONED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE, AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FAILING TO COME IN, THAT SOME SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAD GONE BACK INTO NHA TRANG. DO WE HAVE ANY IDEA WHO CONTROLS NHA TRANG?

A: TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT IN SOUTH VIET-

NAMESE HANDS.

Q: THE AID MONEY FOR CAMBODIA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN DEPLETED THIS MONTH: IS IT ALL GONE NOW OR CLOSE TO ALL GONE?

A: NO, IT'S NOT.

Q: HOW MUCH IS LEFT?

A: WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET A NUMBER.

Q: THOSE SHIPS WITH THE OKINAWA, ARE THEY WITHIN HELICOPTER FLIGHT OF SAIGON? ARE ANY CARRIERS WITHIN HELICOPTER FLIGHT OF SAIGON?

A: I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT THE OKINAWA WAS IN THE SOUTH CHINA PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 3802 UNCLAS SEA AND, AS YOU KNOW, SHE CAME FROM THE GULF OF THAILAND. I THINK I'D RATHER JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q: ISN'T SHE BOUND FOR SUBIC BAY?

A: THE OKINAWA IS ENROUTE TO SUBIC. ADMIRAL GAYLOR SAID THAT IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE.

Q: IS THERE ANY MONEY LEFT OR ANY STOCKS LEFT FOR CAMBODIA?

A: THE PREVIOUS ESTIMATES THAT WE HAD WERE THAT THE STOCKS WERE NOT EXPECTED TO LAST PAST THIS MONTH, APRIL, AS I RECALL, WAS OUR BEST ESTIMATE. THERE ARE STOCKS ON THE GROUND. THERE ARE STILL STOCKS AVAILABLE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE CURRENT ESTIMATE IS AS TO WHEN THEY MIGHT RUN OUT BUT WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET AN ESTIMATE -- THAT'S ALL IT WOULD BE OF COURSE.

Q: ARE THEY STILL STUDYING THE EVACUATION PLANS FOR SAIGON?

A: YES.

Q: HAVE THEY COME UP WITH YOU KNOW LIKE ONE, TWO OR THREE? HAVE THEY ELIMINATED ANY, HAVE THEY ACCEPTED SOME OR WHAT'S THE STATUS?

A: YOU MEAN LIKE OPTION ONE, OPTION TWO, OR OPTION THREE? I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT. I CAN'T DISCUSS THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.

Q: HOW FAR IS IT FROM SUBIC BAY TO THE GULF OF THAILAND?

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SECTION 3 OF 3

A: I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST IDEA.

Q: DO YOU THINK A SHIP COULD GET THERE IN A DAY OR A HALF DAY? THE POINT OF THE QUESTION IS WE WERE TOLD THE HANCOCK WAS OFF SUBIC FRIDAY AND NOW WE'RE TOLD IT PARTICIPATED IN THE EVACUATION FRIDAY NIGHT.

A: I DON'T RECALL WHAT WE SAID ON IT FRIDAY.

Q: YOU SAID IT WAS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

A: IF WE SAID SOUTH CHINA SEA, THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH HER BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVACUATION BUT IF WE SAID SUBIC, THAT'S OBVIOUSLY UNDEED IN ERROR.

Q: DID THE HANCOCK LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF PHNOM PENH?

A: THERE WERE 12 HELICOPTERS FROM THE HANCOCK THAT WENT INTO PHNOM PENH. THE HANCOCK AT THAT TIME WAS IN THE GULF OF SIAM (THAILAND). THERE WERE 12 HELICOPTERS FROM USS OKINAWA.

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 3803 UNCLAS

MOST OF THE EVACUEES WERE TAKEN TO THE OKINAWA. I BELIEVE THAT THE MARINE GROUND SECURITY FORCE CAME FROM THE HANCOCK TO PHNOM PENH AND RETURNED TO THE HANCOCK. (NOTE: THE MARINES CAME FROM THE OKINAWA BUT WERE PICKED UP AND TAKEN TO THE HANCOCK BY HELOS FROM THE HANCOCK.)

Q: DO YOU HAVE A UNIT NUMBER?

A: I DON'T HAVE IT WITH ME BUT WE CAN GET THAT FOR YOU.

Q: IT WAS STATED HERE THAT THE HANCOCK ONLY HAD MARINE HELICOPTERS BUT NO COMBAT TROOPS. IS THAT IN ERROR?

A: MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT OF THESE 1500 MARINES THAT CAME FROM OKINAWA THAT WERE LOADED ABOARD SHIPS, SOME OF THOSE WENT ABOARD HANCOCK AND WE SAID THAT.

Q: WHEN DID THE HANCOCK GO INTO THE GULF OF SIAM?

A: WE CAN PROBABLY GET THAT. I DON'T KNOW RIGHT NOW.

Q: THIS BREAKDOWN ON HELICOPTERS RAISES A POINT. WE'VE BEEN ASKING HOW MANY HELICOPTERS ARE ON THE HANCOCK AND WE GOT DIFFERENT FIGURES -- 15 - 18. APPEARING IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD IS A STATEMENT THAT LISTS 12 HELICOPTERS ON THE HANCOCK. WHY ARE WE GIVEN THESE FVAGUE FIGURES? THE INFO IS HERE BUT WE DON'T GET THE PRECISE INFORMATIRN.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 3803 UNCLAS

A: I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE YOUR PROBLEM. I RECALL READING AT 2:00 A.M. IN THE MORNING WIRE STORIES ON THE NUMBER OF EVAC-

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UEES AND NOTING THAT YOU COULD TAKE ANY FIGURE BETWEEN 250 AND 300 AND SOMEBODY JUST USED IT AND EACH ADD WAS CHANGING THE NUMBER. BUT AS FAR AS THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS ABOARD THE HANCOCK, 12 IS TO ME A NEW NUMBER. I WAS NOT AWARE THAT THERE WERE ONLY 12 AND OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN THAT. WE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE IF WE CAN SORT IT OUT.

Q: IF YOU LOOK IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NOTIFICATION TO SENATOR STENNIS SAYS 12.

A: WE'LL LOOK AT IT AND SEE IF WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT OUR OWN SYSTEM.

Q: THESE ARE THE ES THAT THE HANCOCK PICKED UP IN HAWAII?

A: YES.

PART II: FOLLOWING ARE NEW ASSIGNMENTS FOR GENERAL OFFICERS RELEASED FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1975, BY THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE:

ARMY: MGEN ROBERT C. HIXON, SPEC ASST TO CG, TRADOC, FT MONROE, VA.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 3803 UNCLAS

MGEN CHARLES J. SIMMONS, CG, 3RD ARMORED DIV, USA EUROPE, DRANKE GERMANY

MGEN CHARLES E. SPRAGINS, COMDR, US HIL GP, RIO DE JANEIRO AIR FORCE: BGEN BRUCE K. BROWN, DEP DIR, J-3, JT STAFF(NMCC)

BGEN WILLIAM L. NICHOLSON, DEP DIR, (STRAT GEN OPS), J-3.

BGEN ROBERT E. SADLER, DIR, J-6, JT STAFF

BGEN LELAND C. SHEPARD, DCS/PERS, MAC, SCOTT AFB

BGEN GARRY A. WILLARD, JR., DEP ACS/J-3 UNC/US FORCES KOREA

BGEN CHARLES D. YOUREE, JR. DEP DIR FOR POLITICO MIL AFFAIRS

J-5.

COL ANDERSON W. ATKINSON, ASST DEP DIR (COMD AND CONTROL) J-3

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SECTION 1 OF 4

FROM OASD/PA

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION/AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART 1: FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF DOD NEWS BRIEFING FOR THUR. APR 17, 1975, CONDUCTED BY COL. ROBERT L. BURKE, USA DIRECTOR FOR DEFENSE INFORMATION, OASD PA:

1. THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE OF SOME OF OUR PEOPLE ON THE HILL TODAY. SEC MCLUCAS AND GEN JONES OF AF, WHO WERE SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY THIS MORNING AT A CLOSED HEARING ON THE B-1 WILL BE TESTIFYING THIS AFTERNOON BEFORE SENATE ARMED SERVICES R&D COMMITTEE. ALSO POSTPONED UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON IS THE APPEARANCE OF MR. ALDRICH OF OASD (PAGE) WHO WILL BE TESTIFYING ON THE U.S. STRATEGIC BOMBER FORCE.

2. RADM. HART, OASD (I&L) HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THIS PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4151 UNCLAS AFTERNOON BEFORE THE SENATE GOVERNMENT COMM. ON FEDERAL ENERGY CONSERVATION.

3. STATEMENTS BY SEC. MCCLARY, ASD (COMPT) AND DR. COWAN, ASD (H&E) WHO ARE TESTIFYING THIS MORNING HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

4. OASD (M&RA) MINTON FRANCIS WILL SPEAK THIS EVENING AT WEST POINT.

5. YESTERDAY, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HERMAN STAUDT, EFFECTIVE 30 APRIL.

6. THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE QUINN OF THE U.S. MILITARY COURT OF APPEALS, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 1975.

7. WE HAVE A RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE RETIREMENT OF LGEN RICHARD SEITZ, CG, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AT FORT BRAGG. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY MAJ GEN HANK EMERSON, WHO IS NOW CG OF 2D INF DIV IN KOREA. THAT ALSO INCLUDES GEN EMERSON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LT. GEN.

8. TOMORROW, SEC SCHLESINGER WILL BE TRAVELING TO FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, WHERE HE WILL ADDRESS STUDENTS AT THE ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE.

Q: WHEN WERE THE LAST AIRDROPS IN PHNOM PENH?  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4151 UNCLAS

A: THE LAST AIRDROPS WERE APRIL 17. THERE WERE TEN AIR-DROPS ALTOGETHER IN CAMBODIA; FOUR IN PHNOM PENH. I DON'T HAVE

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A BREAKOUT OF WHAT WAS IN EACH DROP BUT I DO KNOW THAT THE FOUR AT PHNOM PENH CONTAINED RICE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A TIME AS TO WHEN THE LAST ONE WAS MADE?

A: NO, I DON'T. WE CAN PROBABLY GET THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY TONNAGE?

A: NO, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THAT. IF YOU LIKE, I CAN SUMMARIZE WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE EAGLE PULL IN THE WAY OF AIR-DROPS. THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 57 AIRDROPS THROUGHOUT CAMBODIA SINCE THE AMERICANS WERE EVACUATED. OF THOSE 57, MY FIGURES SHOW THAT 19 WERE IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA.

Q: WHEN WAS THE LAST AIRDROP BEFORE THE SURRENDER, DO YOU KNOW?

A: IT WAS ON THE SAME AS THE SURRENDER. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS BEFORE OR AFTER.

Q: THERE'S THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WERE DROPPING IN SUPPLIES AFTER THE SURRENDER?

A: SINCE I DON'T KNOW WHAT TIME THEY DROPPED THEM, YOU KNOW I CAN'T DENY THAT.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4151 UNCLAS

Q: THE WAY WE GOT THE STORY FROM CAMBODIA IS THAT THE KHMER ROUGE WERE INSIDE THE CITY WHEN WE WERE MAKING DROPS, IS THAT CORRECT?

A: I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT HAPPENED OR NOT. SINCE IT WAS RICE, I'M NOT SURE IT MATTERS THAT MUCH.

Q: HAVE THE AIRDROPS DEFINITELY ENDED?

A: I LL CHECK AND SEE.

Q: IT WAS ONLY RICE; THERE WEREN'T ANY ARMS DROPPED?

A: ON THE LAST DAY THE ONLY AIRDROPS INTO PHNOM PENH WAS RICE.

Q: THAT ISN'T NECESSARILY THE CASE WITH THE OTHERS?

A: NOT NECESSARILY, THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: COULD THEY CONTINUE SUPPORT SAY OTHER AREAS WHERE THEY'RE STILL HOLDING OUT?

A: I DON'T KNOW, I'LL CHECK.

Q: YOU REALLY CAN'T SAY WHETHER THE AIRDROPS HAVE HALTED?

A: NO, I CAN'T.

Q: WHY CAN'T YOU?

A: I JUST DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION RIGHT NOW.

Q: WHAT IS THE PENTAGON'S REACTION TO THE FALL OF CAMBODIA?

A: ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THAT WOULD COME THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q: MILITARILY HOW DO YOU VIEW THE FALL -- NOT FROM A DIPLOMATIC POINT OF VIEW?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HOW MUCH IS LEFT UNDELIVERED FROM THIS YEAR'S APPROPRIATION?

A: THE BEST ESTIMATE IS ABOUT \$6 MILLION, SOMEWHAT LESS PROBABLY, IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA REMAINS UNDELIVERED.

Q: CAN THAT NOW BE TRANSFERRED TO VIETNAM?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO IT NOW?

A: WE'LL CHECK. THE REPORTS THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE GETTING ON THIS ARE SOMEWHAT SKETCHY AND NOT YET COMPLETE SO I'M NOT SURE OF THE EXACT FIGURE BUT IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THAT AREA.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE TOTAL AS TO WHAT WE PUT IN THERE?

A: WE CAN GET THAT FOR YOU.

Q: \$275 MILLION WAS THE APPROPRIATIONS THIS YEAR?

A: WE CAN GET YOU A SUMMARY OF WHAT WAS AUTHORIZED.

Q: THERE'S A STORY THIS MORNING WHICH QUOTES A SECRET REPORT WHICH WAS MADE UP BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE MISSION THAT WENT WITH PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4151 UNCLAS

GENERAL WEYAND WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMM. THEY CAME BACK WITH THE REPORT THAT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WAS IRRETRIEVABLE NO MATTER HOW MUCH AID WE GIVE THEM. DO YOU KNOW IF THAT REPORT EXISTS AND IS THAT TRUE?

A: I WOULD THINK THAT YOU WANT TO TALK THE PEOPLE WHO WROTE THE REPORT. ALL I CAN DO IS POINT TO GENERAL WEYAND'S TESTIMONY ON THE HILL WHICH YOU ARE AWARE OF.

Q: IT SEEMS TO BE AT VARIANCE WITH WHAT GENERAL WEYAND SAID AND I SIMPLY WANT TO KNOW IF THE PENTAGON KNOWS WHETHER THE REPORT EXISTS, WHETHER THERE IS KNOWLEDGE OF THE REPORT HERE AND WHETHER THERE'S ANY CONCURRENCE WITH THAT KIND OF A REPORT.

A: WHETHER THERE'S CONCURRENCE, YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD SEC. SCHLESINGER AND GENERAL WEYAND GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THAT SUBJECT- I THINK THAT ANSWERS ITSELF. SO WHETHER THERE'S A REPORT THAT EXISTS OR NOT, I'LL BE GLAD TO CHECK AND SEE. IF IT WAS A REPORT DONE BY SOMEBODY IN CONGRESS, I WOULD THINK THAT THEY WOULD BE THE BEST SOURCE.

A: SEC SCHLESINGER IS NOT VERY CLEAR AS TO WHAT HE EXPECTS TO DERIVE FROM THE \$722 MILLION. HE'S GIVEN A NEGATIVE ANSWER THAT IF THEY DON'T GET IT, VIETNAM WILL FALL BUT HE DOESN'T SAY BT

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SECTION 2 OF 4

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THEY DO GET IT, EXCEPT THAT HE HOPES IT WILL STABILIZE THE SITUATION.

A: HE'S GIVEN A CANDID AND HONEST EVALUATION OF IT AS HE SEES IT. IF HE IS NOT PRECISE AND SPECIFIC, PRESUMABLY THAT'S BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS NOT ONE THAT LENDS ITSELF TO EASY PREDICTIONS.

Q: BACK TO THE CAMBODIAN LIFT, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE DEFINITE WORD ON WHETHER OR NOT THE AIRDROP HAS BEEN HALTED AND WHEN WAS THE LAST DROP CARRIED OUT IN RELATION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CAMBODIA WAS THROWING IT IN.

A: WE ARE WORKING ON THAT RIGHT NOW.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ANY PLACE LEFT IN CAMBODIA?

A: TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NOT.

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4152 UNCLAS

Q: ARE THE EVACUATION PLANS FOR SAIGON NOW COMPLETED?

A: NO, I THINK THEY ARE STILL WORKING ON THEM.

Q: COULD WE FIND OUT FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WHEN HE PLANS TO WITHDRAW ALL OF OUR FORCES FROM THAILAND SINCE THEY ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY? THE ONLY REASON FOR THE PRESENCE HE SAID IN THIS DEFENSE REPORT WAS A HEDGE AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE MASSIVE OFFENSIVE. SINCE THAT HAS OCCURRED AND WE HAVE NOT REACTED TO IT, THERE'S NO NEED FOR RETENTION OF SAY 200-300 AIRPLANES AND 23,000 PERSONNEL IN THAILAND.

A: WE'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTES UNNAMED SENATORS AS SAYING THE PENTAGON TOLD THEM YESTERDAY TO CORRECT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT THAT 3,850 AMERICANS REMAIN IN VIETNAM. IS THAT TRUE AND IF SO WHAT IS THE CORRECT NUMBER?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS A PHONE CALL OR NOT. DID IT SAY THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE NUMBER?

Q: THE NUMBER THE SENATOR SAID WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER.

A: WE'LL SEE WHAT KIND OF NUMBER WE CAN GET.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANY NORTH VIETNAMESE MOVEMENTS INTO THE XUNA LOC TO REINFORCE THE TROOPS THERE?

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4152 UNCLAS

A: FROM NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE AREA THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN, DOWN

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TO XUAN LOC.

A: LET ME SAY THAT WE WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THERE WERE SUCH MOVEMENTS DOWN IN THAT AREA.

Q: ARE THERE MOVEMENTS OR AREN'T THERE?

A: I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANY MORE THAN THAT.

Q: THE OTHER DAY GENERAL WAYAND SAID THE DEFENSE AT XUAN LOC EFFECTIVELY PUT A NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISION OUT OF ACTION. COULD YOU EXPAND ON THAT? DOES THAT MEAN IT'S INEFFECTIVE, IT'S DESTROYED, IT'S DISPERSED, IT HAS TO BE REPLACED? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

A: I DIDN'T HEAR THAT PART OF THE TESTIMONY BUT I PRESUME WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT IS THAT WHEN A UNIT LOSES A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT IT TENDS TO DEGRADE THAT UNIT'S CAPABILITY TO FUNCTION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING UNIT. I PRESUME THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON NEW YORK TIMES STORY ABOUT GEN. WEYAND TESTIFYING THAT THE PENTAGON WAS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4152 UNCLAS CORRIDOR FROM SAIGON TO THE SEA TO EVACUATE THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE AND COULD INVOLVE A MARINE DIVISION OF 20,000?

A: THAT WAS IN HIS TESTIMONY ON THE HILL, WAS IT?

Q: I'M ASKING.

A: I'LL BE GLAD TO FIND OUT WHAT GENERAL WAYAND SAID BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK IN ANY DETAIL ABOUT ANY CONTINGENCY.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US A LAYOUT ON WHERE THE CARRIERS AND SOME OF THE OTHER SHIPS ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OR SUBIC OR WHEREVER THEY MAY BE?

A: THE MIDWAY AND THE OKINAWA ARE BOTH AT SUBIC. THE CORAL SEA AND THE ENTERPRISE ARE BOTH IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA; THE HANCOCK IS IN SINGAPORE.

Q: IS THE HANCOCK ON ITS WAY BACK HOME?

A: NO, IT'S AT SINGAPORE.

Q: THE STORY WHEN IT LEFT THE WEST COAST WAS THAT AFTER COMPLETING ITS MISSION IT WAS GOING TO RETURN TO BE RETIRED. NOW THE QUESTION IS WHETHER ITS GOING TO SINGAPORE IS AN INDICATION WHETHER IT'S ON ITS WAY BACK HOME FOR RETIREMENT.

A: I'M SURE WE WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT WHEN WE CAN.

Q: WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE MARINE BATTALION THAT WAS ON THE PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4152 UNCLAS OKINAWA AND ITS SUPPORTING SHIPS?

A: I DON'T KNOW THIS FOR SURE BUT I ASSUME THEY'RE ENJOYING SOME LIBERTY.

Q: ARE THERE PLANS TO SHIP OUT OTHER MARINE UNITS TO REPLACE THEM?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THAT.

Q: HOW MANY MARINES DO THEY HAVE NOW IN THAT AREA ---ALL THE GUYS ON BOARD THE SHIPS AND THE ONES AT SUBIC?

A: NO CHANGE.

Q: ABOUT 4,000, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

Q: THOSE 700 MARINES THAT WERE DISPERSED AS SHIP GUARDS,

WHERE ARE THEY?

A: THEY ARE NO LONGER ON ANY OF THOSE SHIPS. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND OUT SPECIFICALLY WHERE THEY ARE.

Q: THEY'RE NO LONGER ON THOSE FOUR NAVY TRANSPORTS?

A: THEY MAY BE ON THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS, YES.

Q: WELL, THAT WAS THE LAST LOCATION, I THINK, WHERE THEY WERE.

A: THAT'S THE LAST PLACE I HAD THEM.

THE DUBUQUE AND THE BLUE RIDGE ARE BOTH IN SUBIC, AND I'LL PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4152 UNCLAS CHECK FOR YOU ON THE DURHAM AND THE FREDERICK; THEY'RE BOTH IN THAT AREA, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THAT BATTALION THAT WENT TO SEA FROM SUBIC A WEEK AGO WEDNESDAY -- SOMEWHERE ON THE HANCOCK?

A: THOSE MARINES MAY BE WITH THESE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS THAT WE'VE JUST MENTIONED. WE CAN FIND OUT FOR SURE.

Q: DO THEY STILL HAVE THE MARINES ON BOARD THE HANCOCK?

A: THE MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON, AS FAR AS I KNOW, IS STILL WITH THE HANCOCK.

Q: WHAT SHIPS DID YOU SAY WERE WITH THE OKINAWA AT SUBIC?

A: THE BLUE RIDGE AND THE DUBUQUE.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE SHIPS THAT WERE ACCOMPANYING THE OKINAWA ALL THAT TIME IT WAS IN THE GULF OF THAILAND; THERE WERE ABOUT SIX WEREN'T THERE?

A: YOU MEAN DESTROYERS AND SUPPORT SHIPS? MOST OF THEM ARE AT SUBIC.

Q: CAN WE GET A RUNDOWN ON THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF SHIPS AT SUBIC NOW?

A: YES, WE CAN DO THAT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SOVIET FLEET EXERCISE IN THE

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SECTION 3 OF 4

INDIAN OCEAN, SIXTH FLEET AREA, MEDITERRANEAN, ELSEWHERE?

A: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN NOW IS 22, THAT INCLUDES EIGHT COMBATANTS AND 14 SUPPORT OR AUXILIARY SHIPS. THE U.S. HAS THREE SHIPS THERE.

Q: IS THAT A SIZEABLE INCREASE FROM SAY PREVIOUS WEEKS?

A: IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS BUT WE CAN CHECK ON WHAT IT HAS BEEN. IN THE MED, THE SOVIETS HAVE ABOUT 55 SHIPS, ABOUT HALF OF WHICH ARE COMBATANTS.

Q: HOW MANY NOW ARE INVOLVED WORLDWIDE IN THE EXERCISE?

A: WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET SOMETHING FOR YOU BY TOMORROW ON THAT. THE EXERCISE WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY TASS, AS YOU KNOW.

Q: WHEN WAS THAT?

A: TASS REPORTED IT WOULD BE CONDUCTED THIS MONTH. I'M

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4153 UNCLAS

NOT SURE WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED IT. AS YOU'LL RECALL FIVE YEARS AGO ABOUT THIS SAME TIME OF THE YEAR THE SOVIETS HELD A WORLDWIDE EXERCISE CALLED OKEAN WHICH INVOLVED A LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPS AND ALSO INCLUDED SOVIET AIR DEFENSE AND LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATION. DURING THOSE EXERCISES THEY EMPLOYED NAVAL AND MERCHANT SHIPS AND THEY HAD ANTISUBMARINE AND AMPHIBIOUS LANDING OPERATIONS. WE'LL TRY TO GIVE SOME KIND OF A REPORT TOMORROW ON WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS ONE.

Q: DO THE SOVIETS HAVE A NAME FOR THIS, IF YOU DON'T MIND BEING A SOVIET SPOKESMAN?

A: THEY MAY VERY WELL HAVE BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE TWO SOVIET TUGS ARE THAT WERE REPORTED 750 MILES FROM HAWAII?

A: WE CAN GET IT FOR YOU; I DON'T HAVE IT WITH ME.

Q: THE GLOMAR EXPLORER LEFT PORT AGAIN: DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING?

A: THE GLOMAR EXPLORER DOES NOT APPEAR ON MY LIST.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FIGURE ON THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN EVACUEES FROM SAIGON YESTERDAY?

A: NO, I DON'T.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4153 UNCLAS

Q: HOW ARE THEY BEING EVACUATED?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THEY ARE COMING OUT ON

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MAC AIRCRAFT, MAC CHARTER AND COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.

Q: ARE THESE MAC CHARTER OR MAC AIRCRAFT PER SE?

A: BOTH KINDS. AND THERE ARE ALSO REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS. THEY ARE COMING OUT ALL THREE WAYS.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT THE OTHER DAY OF 9000 DEPARTING. DO YOU HAVE ANY UPDATE?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU A DAILY UPDATE ON THE NUMBER COMING OUT. THERE HAVE BEEN PEOPLE COMING OUT AS I THINK WE'VE TOLD YOU THAT WERE ASSOCIATED WITH A RIF PROGRAM, THAT WAS A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE. THEN THERE IS THE ADDITIONAL REMOVAL OF PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT'S GOING ON. BUT WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN GET YOU A FIGURE.

Q: THE PRESIDENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE WAS ORDERING THE REMOVAL OF ALL NON-ESSENTIAL PEOPLE WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE SOME 2,000 LEAVING IN A WEEK. SO IF WE CAN GET FIGURES ON A DAILY BASIS, THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

A: I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN DO THAT BUT WE'LL SEE.

Q: HOW MANY U.S. MILITARY REMAIN IN VIETNAM?

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4153 UNCLAS

A: THERE ARE NOT VERY MANY MILITARY PERSONNEL, WE CAN GET THAT.

Q: HOW ABOUT MILITARY RELATED IN THE SENSE OF PROVIDING MAINTENANCE, ETC.?

A: , CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED?

Q: HOW MANY CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL?

A: THE DETERMINATION PROBABLY HAS TO BE MADE IN SAIGON AS TO WHO IS AND WHO IS NOT ESSENTIAL, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY ARE GOING TO BREAK IT DOWN.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS COULD BE LIFTED OUT IN ONE HELICOPTER EVACUATION IF WE WANTED TO?

A: HOW MANY BALLS OF STRING WOULD IT TAKE TO REACH THE MOON? IT DEPENDS ON HOW BIG THE BALL OF STRING IS.

Q: THERE'S A LIMIT AS TO HOW MANY HELICOPTERS CAN YOU SEND.

A: IT DEPENDS ON FACTORS SUCH AS HOW MANY HELICOPTERS YOU HAVE AVAILABLE, THE DISTANCE THAT THEY HAVE TO FLY.

Q: WE KNOW THE DISTANCE WE HAVE TO FLY AND WE KNOW THE HELICOPTERS WE HAVE AVAILABLE, HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN WE FLY OUT IN ONE OPERATION?

A: YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT THE HELICOPTERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE THERE NOW? WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ABOUT IS THE  
PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4153 UNCLAS

KIND OF THING THAT GOES INTO CONTINGENCY PLANS AND WHILE I CAN TALK TO YOU ABOUT HOW YOU PLAN THESE THINGS, I DON'T WANT TO TALK HOW WE IN FACT ARE THINKING ABOUT DOING IT AND I DON'T WANT TO TO GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION-----

Q: ARE YOU ASSUMING IT'S GOING TO BE A HELICOPTER OPERATION?

A: I THINK THE QUESTION ASSUMES THAT. THERE ARE OTHER MEANS THAT COULD BE USED.

Q: HAVE ANY NEW HELICOPTERS, OTHER THAN THE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN THERE FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS, HAVE ANY NEW ONES



GONE OUT?

A: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q: HAVE ANY NEW ONES GONE TO UTAPAO OR ANYPLACE?

A: I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH; I DON'T THINK THEY'VE ADDED ANY HELICOPTERS OUT THERE ANYPLACE IN ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER.

Q: IS THERE ANY PROTECTION BEING OFFERED BY ANY FORM BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OR THE U.S. TO THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING EVACUATED?

A: IN WHAT SENSE?

Q: IN THE SENSE THAT THERE'S A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT A PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4153 UNCLAS ANGER TOWARD PEOPLE LEAVING THAT THERE'S THE POSSIBILITY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MIGHT TURN ON THE AMERICANS WHO ARE LEAVING, IS THERE ANY OF THAT GOING ON AND ARE THEY BEING PROTECTED IN ANY WAY?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF ANSWER TO THAT. I DON'T SEE ANY INDICATION THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FEEL ANY ANGER TOWARD THE AMERICANS WHO ARE THERE WHO MIGHT BE LEAVING. WE'VE HAD A PRETTY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP FOR A LONG TIME WITH THOSE PEOPLE AND I JUST DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S PART OF THE PROBLEM BUT WE CAN SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT FOR YOU WHAT KIND OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT EXIST.

Q: HOW MANY MAC, CHARTERED FLIGHTS DO YOU HAVE DAILY FROM SIAGON?

A: I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT FIGURE.

Q: I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN OUTFIT A NEW ARVN DIVISION FOR \$36 MILLION WHILE IT COSTS AT LEAST THREE TIMES THAT MUCH TO OUTFIT AN AMERICAN DIVISION.

A: IT VARIES FROM ONE DIVISION TO ANOTHER EVEN WITHIN THE AMERICAN ARMY. AN ARMORED DIVISION'S COST COMPARED TO A LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION WOULD NOT BE COMPARABLE.

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IN 13056/107/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4154 1072019-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

ZNR UUUUU

RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 171950Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8798

AIG 8799

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UNCLAS 4123

SECTION 4 OF 4

Q: WOULD YOU SAY THESE DIVISIONS ARE LESS WELL EQUIPPED  
AND SMALLER, AS FAR AS INVENTORY GOES, THAN A U.S. DIVISION?

A: WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED  
TO THE DIVISIONS THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONSTITUTE THAT  
KIND OF A SAVING.

Q: IF THIS IS BEING DONE ON AN AUSTERE BASIS THEN WE SHOULD  
SAY SO OTHERWISE YOU'LL BE ASKED BY CONGRESS ONE OF THESE  
DAYS WHY WE CAN'T EQUIP OUR DIVISIONS FOR \$36 MILLION.

A: I'M CERTAIN THAT THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT AND THE MISSION  
OF THE U.S. AND ARVN DIVISIONS ARE JUST NOT COMPARABLE AT ALL.  
BUT WE'LL CHECK AND SEE WHAT WE CAN TURN UP ON THAT.

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IN 13058/107/75 /ACK

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UNCLAS //N05700// SECTION 01 OF 03  
WEEKLY NEWSGRAM FROM CHINFO (NAVY INTERNAL RELATIONS ACTIVITY)  
(16-75)

1. THIS NEWSGRAM CONTAINS NAVY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST WEEK.  
THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED FOR DISSEMINATION TO ALL HANDS.

A. OPERATION "EAGLE PULL" DRAWS PRAISE. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN LAST WEEK'S EVACUATION OF CIVILIANS FROM PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, AN OPERATION CALLED "EAGLE PULL," HAS DRAWN HIGH PRAISE FROM SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT, DOD AND NAVY OFFICIALS. USS HANCOCK (CVA-19), USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), USS VANCOUVER (LPD-2), USS PEORIA (LST-1183), USS THOMASTON (LSD-28), USS H.B. WILSON (DDG-7), USS RAMSEY (DEG-2), USS MEYERKORD (DE-1058), AND USS EDSON (DD-946) COMPRISED THE EVACUATION TASK FORCE SUPPORTING THE AIRLIFT OF 276 PERSONS INCLUDING 82 AMERICANS FROM THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL. FOURTEEN MARINE HELICOPTERS FROM USS HANCOCK, 12 FROM USS OKINAWA, AND 12 AIR FORCE HELOS ACCOMPLISHED THE EVACUATION AFTER U.S. MARINES HAD SECURED THE LANDING AREA IN PHNOM PENH. ALL EVACUEES, INCLUDING U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN AND ACTING CAMBODIAN PRESIDENT SAU KAM KHOY, WERE TAKEN TO USS OKINAWA FOR EVENTUAL AIR TRANSFER TO UTAPAO, THAILAND. THERE WERE NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES IN THE APPROXIMATELY TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR EVACUATION OPERATION. COMMENTING ON THE OPERATION, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER NOTED THAT "IT WAS CARRIED OUT WITH GREAT SKILL, AND IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS THE HIGHEST CREDIT ON ALL OF THOSE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN WHO PARTICIPATED."

B. NAVY ASSISTS EMPLOYEES RETURNING FROM DAO SAIGON. THE NAVY HAS ESTABLISHED PROCESSING CENTERS AT TRAVIS AFB CA AND PHILADELPHIA, PA TO ASSIST NAVY AND DEFENSE EMPLOYEES RETURNED TO CONUS BECAUSE OF REDUCTION IN FORCE AT THE U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE (DAO), SAIGON. THUS FAR, ALMOST 200 EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE TWO CENTERS. THE NAVY REGIONAL OFFICES OF CIVILIAN MANPOWER MANAGEMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO AND PHILADELPHIA MANAGE THE CENTERS, WHICH ARE STAFFED WITH SPECIALISTS FROM LOCAL NAVY AND OTHER DOD ACTIVITIES. MANY, BUT NOT ALL, DAO EMPLOYEES HAVE RETURN RIGHTS TO DEFENSE ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PROCESSING CENTERS MAKE TAD ASSIGNMENTS TO CONUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE RIF NOTICE PERIOD.

C. NEW UNIFORM CHANGES ANNOUNCED. A VARIETY OF CHANGES TO THE MALE OFFICER AND ENLISTED UNIFORMS WERE APPROVED LAST WEEK BY THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. THE CHANGES ARE THE RESULT OF AN

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AS THREE HOURS AFTER THE LAST AIRDROP.

A: I CAN'T HELP ON THAT, I JUST DON'T KNOW. I AM TOLD THAT THERE WAS A BROADCAST IN THE MORNING THAT CAME OUT OF PHNOM PENH THAT REFERRED TO A CAPITULATION, BUT EXACTLY HOW MUCH CREDIBILITY WAS GIVEN TO THAT UNDER THOSE CONFUSED CIRCUMSTANCES, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: WAS THAT ON THE 18TH OF APRIL, CAMBODIA TIME?

A: NO, IT WAS THE 17TH, CAMBODIA TIME.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE AT ALL IN THE ALERT STATUS FOR MARINES ON OKINAWA OR HAVE ANY MOVED TO THE PHILIPPINES, OR ANY PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4367 UNCLAS MORE ON SHIPS? HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT AT ALL OF THE MARINES?

A: THE MARINES IN THAT AREA ARE ESSENTIALLY IN THE SAME PLACES THEY WERE YESTERDAY. I BELIEVE THERE WERE TWO MARINE SECURITY DETACHMENTS PUT ABOARD TWO USNS VESSELS -- THE GREENVILLE VICTORY AND THE KIMBRO AND THOSE ARE OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM. YOU REMEMBER WE USED THOSE TO EVACUATE REFUGEES FROM THE COAST BEFORE.

Q: WEREN'T THEY TAKEN OFF?

A: YOU SEE ONE OF THE GREAT ADVANTAGES OF MARINES IS THAT THEY'RE MOBILE, YOU CAN MOVE THEM AROUND.

Q: WHEN WERE THEY PUT ON? APPARENTLY THEY'RE GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER EVACUATION.

A: WITHIN THE LAST DAY OR SO.

Q: WHERE WERE THEY TAKEN FROM?

A: I BELIEVE THEY WERE TAKEN FROM THE SUBIC AREA WHICH IS WHERE THE REST OF THE MARINES ARE.

Q: THEY WERE PART OF THE DETACHMENT THERE -- THE 700 THAT CAME DOWN FROM OKINAWA OR THE 1500 THAT WERE BROUGHT DOWN LATER?

A: I DON'T KNOW IF IT WOULD BE RELEVANT TO TRACE THEM LIKE THAT BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THE SAME TYPE OF MISSIONS.

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IN 14197/108/75 /ACK

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

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FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 5639

SECTION 4 OF 5

Q: IT'S NOT A NEW GROUP FROM OKINAWA?

A: NO.

Q: HOW MANY?

A: THE LAST TIME I THINK WE SAID THE DETACHMENT WOULD BE 40 OR 50 OR SOMEWHERE IN THAT AREA. I ASSUME IT'S SIMILAR TO THAT.

Q: ARE THESE SHIPS STANDING OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM?

A: NO, I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'RE STANDING OFF, BUT THEY'RE OPERATING OFF THE COAST.

Q: WE'RE NOT HAULING REFUGEES OUT OF THERE ANYMORE, ARE WE?

A: NOT NOW.

Q: WHY WERE THE MARINES PUT BACK ON IT THEN? THEY WERE ORIGINALLY PUT THERE TO MAINTAIN ORDER AMONG REFUGEES?

A: SURE. AS YOU KNOW, PHAN RANG HAS, WITHIN THE LAST DAY OR SO, APPARENTLY BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4368 UNCLAS

FORCES IN THAT AREA AND WHETHER THERE ARE SOME REFUGEES TO BE EVACUATED FROM THAT COAST DOWN TO THE SAIGON AREA, I DON'T KNOW. I SUSPECT THAT IT'S A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE JUST ON THESE TWO SHIPS.

Q: ARE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE STILL MOVING PEOPLE OUT OF PHU QUOC?

A: I THINK THE MOVEMENT DOWN TO PHU QUOC THAT OUR SHIPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN WAS ENDED SEVERAL DAYS AGO. THEY OFF-LOADED ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT WERE GOING TO PHU QUOC. WHETHER THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARE DOING SOME MOVEMENT WITH THEIR OWN SHIPS, I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY SHORE-BASED PERSONNEL AT VUNG TAU?

A: YOU MEAN MARINES OR PEOPLE LIKE THAT?

Q: MARINES OR NAVY PEOPLE ASHORE.

A: I DOUBT IT VERY MUCH, WE CAN CHECK AND SEE. I THINK WE HAVE NO ONE ASHORE THERE.

Q: DID THE ENTERPRISE JUST PICK UP EQUIPMENT OR PEOPLE IN MANILA? B

A: WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN GET FOR YOU ON THE ENTERPRISE. I DON'T THINK THAT SHE DID, BUT WE'LL CHECK AND SEE.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4368 UNCLAS

Q: I'D LIKE AN EXPLANATION OF WHY SHE SAILED SO SOON.

A: YOU KNOW TO ANSWER THAT YOU'VE GOT TO COVER WHAT SHE'S

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DOING NOW AND WHAT THEMANS ARE FOR HER AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT, AS USUAL.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE EVACUATION? HOW MANY DID WE GET OFF AND HOW MANY ARE STILL THERE?

A: ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT FROM VIETNAM?

Q: YES.

A: YOU SHOULD ASK THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THAT. A WORKING FIGURE HAS BEEN ABOUT 4,000. WHAT THE NUMBER NOW IS, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: SEVERAL DAYS AGO I ASKED FOR A DEFINITION OF 'MINIMAL NUMBER' OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER ON THAT?

A: NO, BUT IF THERE WERE TO BE AN ANSWER ON THAT, STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE IT, NOT US.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF MASSACRE BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OF PEOPLE WHO WERE FRIENDLY OR WORKED WITH AMERICANS IN AREAS ALREADY TAKEN OVER BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF MESSAGES ON THAT. I HAVE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4368 UNCLAS NOT SEEN THE DETAILS MYSELF. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WHICH DO INDICATE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG FORCES THAT HAVE MOVED INTO THOSE AREAS HAVE CARRIED OUT SOME APPARENTLY BLOODY REPRISALS. WE'LL SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN GET YOU.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FIGURES ON PEOPLE INVOLVED?

A: NO, I HAVE NOT SEEN THE DETAILS BUT AM AWARE OF THE REPORTS AND WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN GET TO GIVE TO YOU. I DON'T PERSONALLY KNOW WHAT NUMBERS ARE INVOLVED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE AREAS INVOLVED?

A: I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF THESE REPORTS ARE CONFIRMED. SOME OF THEM ARE FROM PRETTY RELIABLE SOURCES. I DON'T KNOW THE AREAS. BUT WE WILL TRY TO PROVIDE WHATEVER KIND OF SPECIFIC DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.

Q: ARE ANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE BUSINESSMEN TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SAIGON AND DANANG? IS THERE ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL CONTACTS?

A: I THINK YOU WOULD WANT TO ASK STATE ABOUT THAT.

Q: HOW MANY NVA DIVISIONS ARE NOW IN THE SOUTH?

A: THE LATEST FIGURE THAT I HAVE SHOWS THAT THERE ARE STILL PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4368 UNCLAS 20 NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS OUT OF THE 22 THAT THEY HAVE. WHAT WE'VE SEEN IS A MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD OF THE ONES ALREADY IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q: IS THIS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A: I'VE JUST GIVEN YOU TWO THIS MORNING THAT WE KNOW ARE IN MR II. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS FOR SOME DAYS THAT SOME UNITS HAVE BEEN MOVING SOUTHWARD.

Q: HAVE ELEMENTS OF THE TWO REMAINING NVN DIVISIONS MOVED SOUTHWARD?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT SUBJECT THAT I CAN DISCUSS

WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.

PART II: QUERIES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Q: WHAT BECOMES OF THE \$6 MILLION IN UNDELIVERED MILITARY MATERIEL FOR CAMBODIA?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS DETERMINING WHETHER THE \$6 MILLION REMAINING IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FUNDED CAMBODIA MAP PROGRAM OR TO THE SPECIAL DRAWDOWN AUTHORITY. ONCE THIS IS DETERMINED, APPROPRIATE DISPOSITION OF THE MATERIEL WILL BE MADE.

Q: HOW MUCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) WAS ALLOTTED PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4368 UNCLAS TO CAMBODIA THIS YEAR?

A: CONGRESS PLACED A \$200 MILLION STATUTORY CEILING ON THE CAMBODIA MAP PROGRAM AND ALSO GRANTED \$75 MILLION IN SPECIAL DRAWDOWN AUTHORITY.

Q: CAN YOU PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF MAP FUNDS PROGRAMMED AND DELIVERED TO CAMBODIA.

A: DURING FY 1950-75, \$1.264 BILLION WAS PROGRAMMED FOR THE CAMBODIA MAP PROGRAM. OF THIS, \$1.258 BILLION HAS BEEN DELIVERED.

Q: HOW MANY CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY STUDENTS UNDERGOING TRAINING IN U.S.?

A: APPROXIMATELY 220 CAMBODIANS AND 250 SOUTH VIETNAMESE AS OF 3 APRIL.

Q: HAS AIRDROP BEEN SUSPENDED?

A: YES.

Q: WHEN WAS THE LAST AIRDROP AT PHNOM PENH?

A: THE LAST AIRDROP INTO PHNOM PENH WAS RICE. IT OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 10 A.M. LOCAL TIME (11 P.M. EDT).

Q: WHEN WAS THE LAST AIRDROP IN CAMBODIA?

A: THE LAST AIRDROP IN CAMBODIA OCCURRED AT 3:30 P.M. LOCAL

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IN 14200/108/75 /ACK

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

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FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 5639

SECTION 5 OF 5

TIMES (4:30 A.M. EDT) AT KOMPONG CHNANG.

Q: WHEN DOES THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PLAN TO WITHDRAW U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND?

A: THIS MATTER IS A SUBJECT OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND. THE DETAILS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED.

Q: WHAT'S THE HANCOCK DOING IN SINGAPORE?

A: PORT VIST/LIBERTY.

Q: IS THE HANCOCK DUE TO RETURN TO U.S. FOR RETIREMENT?

A: AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED BY THE NAVY, THE HANCOCK IS DUE FOR INACTIVATION SOMETIME IN FY '76. HANCOCK IS ON ITS LAST WESTPAC DEPLOYMENT.

Q: ARE THE MARINES STILL ABOARD THE HANCOCK? OKINAWA? IF NOT WHERE ARE THEY?

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4369 UNCLAS

A: THE MARINE HELO DETACHMENT IS STILL ABOARD THE HANCOCK, MARINES ASSIGNED TO THE OKINAWA ARE IN SUBIC BAY.

Q: WHERE ARE THE DURHAM AND THE FREDERICK?

A: BOTH SHIPS ARE IN HONG KONG.

Q: WHERE ARE THE REST OF THE SHIPS THAT WERE WITH THE OKINAWA IN THE GULF OF SISM?

A: IN PORT SUBIC BAY.

Q: WHERE IS THE 1500 MAN BN. OF MARINES WHICH DEPARTED SUBIC LAST WEEK?

A: AT SEA.

Q: CAN WE HAVE A COMPLETE RUNDOWN ON THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF SHIPS AT SUBIC?

A: AIRCRAFT CARRIERS: 1/DESTROYERS: 13/CRUISERS: 1/REPLENISHMENT: 9/AMPHIBIOUS: 5

Q: IS THERE A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A: NO. THE SOVIETS HAVE MAINTAINED ABOUT 20 SHIPS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE BULK OF THESE SHIPS ARE SUPPORT OR AUXILIARY SHIPS.

Q: HOW MANY SOVIET SHIPS WORLDWIDE ARE INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT EXERCISE?

A: UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME.

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Q: WHEN DID TASS ANNOUNCE THIS EXERCISE?

A: APRIL 10, 1975.

Q: WHAT IS THE SOVIET NAME FOR THIS EXERCISE?

A: SPRING EXERCISE.

Q: HOW MANY DESERTERS AT LARGE IN VIETNAM?

A: AS OF DECEMBER 1973 THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAD EVIDENCE OF ONLY 5 U.S. MILITARY DESERTERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q: ANY NOW SHOWING UP IN VIETNAM?

A: NO REPORTS OF ANY.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM IF THEY DO SHOW UP?

A: THEY WOULD BE ASSISTED IN EVACUATION AND BE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND PROSECUTION FOR THE ABSENTEE OFFENSE.

BT

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IN 14202/108/75 /ACK

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INFO RUKNOS/AMEMB SAIGON VS

RHMSMVA/USDAO SAIGON VS

RUHQGAA/COMSEVENTHFLT

ZEN/CGFMFPAC CAMP SMITH HI

RULSSDA/COMSC WASHINGTON DC

RUADKHA/COMSCFE YOKOHAMA JA

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UNCLAS E F T O/J31/CINCPAC SENDS

REFUGEE LIFT

1. YOU CARRIED OUT THE DEMANDING DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEE RELOCATION UNDER THE MOST TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. YOUR ACTIONS HELPED SAVE COUNTLESS THOUSANDS. ALL OF YOU CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THIS TRULY HUMANITARIAN EFFORT, UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT TIMES. WELL DONE AND THANKS. ADMIRAL NOEL GAYLER, COMMANDER IN CHIEF PACIFIC

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UNCLAS 8905

SECTION 1 OF 6

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART 1: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY MGEN SIDLE, DASD/PA

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1: ON THE HILL: I KNOW OF NO PREPARED STATEMENTS FOR ANY DOD REPRESENTATIVES. WE DO HAVE MR. ABRAMOWITZ, THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA) APPEARING AT 10:00 O'CLOCK TODAY IN OPEN SESSION OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON AID TO VIETNAM. HE DOES NOT HAVE A STATEMENT.

LGEM HOWARD FISH, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY, WILL ADDRESS THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION THIS AFTERNOON IN SAN DIEGO. WE WILL HAVE ADVANCE COPIES OF HIS TEXT.

2. WE'VE GOT A COUPLE OF MEMOS FOR YOU IN YOUR PACKAGE:

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4651 UNCLAS

ONE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED LETTER OF OFFER TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE INITIAL PHASE WHICH IS WHAT THIS IS TALKING ABOUT, WILL BE LESS THAN \$25 MILLION, BUT WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE CONGRESS ANYWAY SINCE IT WILL COST MORE THAN \$25 MILLION BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH.

3. MR. CALLAWAY ANNOUNCES TODAY THAT HE HAS ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CIVILIAN WOMEN AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS TASK FORCE IS TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP PLANS TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANOTHER STUDY WHICH WAS COMPLETED A LITTLE WHILE AGO ON THE USE OF CIVILIAN WOMEN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE ARMY AND OF COURSE THE GOAL IS TO HAVE MORE, AND GIVE THEM A BETTER CAREER PROGRAM.

Q HOW MANY MARINES HAVE BEEN MOVED OUT OF OKINAWA; WHERE HAVE THEY GONE AND WHAT'S THE MARINE COMPLEMENT NOW?

A: LET'S FIRST GET ONE RULE STRAIGHT HERE, I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS TROOP MOVEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE THAT YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH.

Q: HOW ABOUT COMPLETED TROOP MOVEMENTS?

A: IN SOME CASES WE CAN DISCUSS THE COMPLETED ONES. THE

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PRESIDENT AS YOU KNOW LAST NIGHT CONFIRMED AND I BELIEVE HIS INTERROGATORS ALSO MENTIONED THE SIZE -- IT WAS A BATTALION

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MOVING FROM HAWAII TO THE PACIFIC AND, AS HE SAID, TO TAKE UP THE SLACK. THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING OUT AS A PRUDENT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE JUST IN CASE THEY'RE NEEDED. THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC MISSION AT THIS TIME. AS FAR AS TROOPS LEAVING OKINAWA ARE CONCERNED, THERE ARE NONE AND AS FAR AS FUTURE PLANS ARE CONCERNED, AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE MANY CONTINGENCIES AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PLANS AT THIS TIME. WE'RE GOING TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE SITUATION TURNS OUT. I SHOULDN'T SAY WE DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC PLANS, WE HAVE MANY SPECIFIC PLANS BUT NONE ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY NONE HAVE LEFT OKINAWA . . . .

A: OTHER THAN THEONES WE'VE ALREADY ANNOUNCED. NO ADDITIONAL MARINES HAVE LEFT WITHIN THE LAST DAY. I THINK THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: ARE ANY BEING ORDERED ABOARD AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS?

A: NO, NOT AT THIS TIME. I'M NOT SAYING IT WON'T HAPPEN.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MARINES ON BOARD SHIPS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

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A: WE'RE STILL AT ABOUT THE 4,000 LEVEL. I'M TALKING COMBAT MARINES. I'M NOT TALKING HELICOPTER MECHANICS AND THE STATION COMPLEMENTS SO TO SPEAK.

Q: THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS THAT LEFT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, STOPPED AT OKINAWA, IS THAT CORRECT?

A: THEY WERE BRIEFLY THERE, AND ARE NOW DOWN IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA.

Q: THEY DIDN'T TAKE ON MARINES IN OKINAWA?

A: MY INFORMATION IS 'NO.'

Q: THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM INFORMATION THAT WAS AVAILABLE HERE YESTERDAY. *(Geller)*

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION, BUT I'M QUITE SURE I'M RIGHT ON THIS.

Q: CAN I COME BACK TO THIS POINT, YOUR ORIGINAL STATEMENT THAT YOU WILL NOT DISCUSS TROOP MOVEMENTS? I THINK WE ARE NOT ENGAGED IN WAR, HENCE THE PURPOSE OF ANY TROOP MOVEMENTS IS CONNECTED WITH A HUMANITARIAN MISSION. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN TO US, TO OUR READERS, WHY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REFUSES TO DISCUSS TROOP MOVEMENTS?

A: WE DO THE BEST WE CAN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ANYONE  
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WITH WHOME WE ARE GOING TO TAKE HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS, SUCH AS AN EVACUATION, AS WE TALKED ABOUT IN THE PHNOM PENH AFFAIR. THERE'S JUST NO POINT IN GIVING THE GUY WHO MIGHT BE SHOOTING AT SOMEBODY YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM AT SUCH A TIME. OBVIOUSLY, SOME OF THE INFORMATION GETS OUT AND WE'RE WILLING TO CONFIRM IT IN MOST CASES, BUT OUR FEELING IS THE LESS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KNOW ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING, THE BETTER OFF EVERYBODY IS.

Q: THAT'S A MARVELOUS QUOTE. 'THE LESS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KNOW WHAT WE ARE ABOUT, THE BETTER. . . '

A: WHAT WE'RE DOING THE BETTER, YES, OR ANY OTHER POTENTIAL INTERFERER WITH SOMETHING THAT WE MAY DECIDE TO DO.

Q: WHERE ARE THE MARINES FROM HAWAII GOING?

A: TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Q: INCLUDING THOSE MARINES, HOW MANY WILL WE HAVE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW THE FIGURE, IT'LL BE MORE THAN THAT?

Q: YOU SAY WE ALREADY HAVE 4,000 THERE.

A: YOU SAID WESTERN PACIFIC, THAT INCLUDES OKINAWA.

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Q: IN THE WATERS AROUND, BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND. . . .

A: THAT'S STILL IN THE 4,000 BRACKET.

Q: SO YOU'RE SAYING THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO THAT AREA?

A: I'M NOT SAYING WHERE THEY'RE GOING, THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US HOW MANY TROOPS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS MOVEMENT FROM HAWAII; IS THAT 1500?

A: THAT'S HIGH. IT'S A BATTALION. YOU KNOW BATTALIONS RUN BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000 OR SO. *> Good grief.*

Q: YOU'RE NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THIS BATTALION'S GOING TO WIND UP IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, ARE YOU?

A: I'M REALLY NOT RULING OUT ANY POSSIBILITY, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO SAY WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

Q: IF THEY'RE GOING TO 'BEEF-UP' WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO 'BEEF-UP'?

A: WELL WE HAVE THE FORCES IN OKINAWA; THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO BE BEEFED-UP. WE'VE FROM TIME-TO-TIME STATIONED TROOPS IN A NUMBER OF PLACES OUT THERE.

HERE AGAIN WE SEE NO POINT IN REVIEWING THIS AT THIS TIME.

Q: THEY'RE NOT GOING TO SUBIC ARE THEY?

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RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 22234Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 8905

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A: I'M NOT SAYING WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

Q: DID THEY GO BY COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, SOME OF THEM?

A: THERE WERE SOME CHARTER AIRCRAFT.

Q: WHY DID YOU HAVE TO TURN TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT?

A: I THINK IT WAS DONE REALLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, I DON'T KNOW. I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTION.

Q: I ASKED THAT, ARE YOU SHORT ON AIRLIFT CAPACITY NOW TO TAKE PEOPLE OUT OF SAIGON?

A: NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

Q: THAT'S THE STORY OUT OF SAIGON TODAY. THERE'S A BIG BACKLOG OF PEOPLE.

A: LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE IN OUR INVENTORY SOME 247 C-141S; I DON'T REMEMBER THE FIGURE ON 130S -- IT'S BIGGER THAN THAT. SO MAYBE WE'RE SHORT AT ONE PARTICULAR TIME, PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4652 UNCLAS

BUT I CAN'T SEE HOW WE WOULD BE SHORT OVERALL. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A GREAT NUMBER OF CHARTERS AVAILABLE. WE'VE BEEN USING CHARTER PLANES FOR A LONG TIME.

Q: THERE WAS A C-130 THAT WAS FIRED UPON FROM TAN SON NHUT. . .

A: IT WAS REPORTEDLY FIREDUPON.

Q: THE PENTAGON HAS THE REPORT THAT IT WAS FIRE PPON.

A: WHEN YOU READ THE REPORT, YOU'RE NOT AT ALL SURE THEY WERE FIRED UPON ORNOT.

Q: FROM WHAT WAS BELIEVED TO BE A 57 MM. . . .

A: WHEN YOU READ THE REPORT YOU'RE NOT AT ALL SURE THEY WERE FIRED UPON. I'M NOT CONFIRMING THAT STORY. THE PILOT REPORTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE WAS FIRED UPON. AT THIS TIME IT'S VERY HARD TO TELL, WHETHER HE WAS OR NOT.

Q: JUST WHAT WAS HE CARRYING DO YOU KNOW? EVACUEES?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT. I DIDN'T GET THAT PART. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTIONS ON THAT.

Q: THIS WAS A MILITARY PILOT?

A: THIS WAS A MILITARY PILOT.

Q: REPORTEDLY FIRED UPON BY WHAT?

A: BY SOMETHING ON HIS WAY IN OR OUT OF TAN SON NHUT.

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Q: MISSILE OR WHAT?

A: NO, IT WASN'T MISSILE. IT WAS SOME KIND OF SMALL ARMS

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OR PERHAPS SOME KIND OF ANTIAIRCRAFT WEAPON, BUT NOT A MISSILE.

Q: BUT HE WASN'T HIT.

A: HE WAS NOT HIT, IN ANY CASE. THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE STILL CHECKING ON THIS IKE (PAPPAS). THE THING IS STILL PRETTY HAZY, AT THE MOMENT.

Q: ON THE MIDWAY, HAVE THEY PUT ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS ON THE MIDWAY FOR THE EVACUATION?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT. WE PUT A FEW EXTRA ON ONE OF THEM.

Q: HOW MUCH OF A THREAT ARE THE SA-7S AND SA-2S NOW AT TAN SON NHUT? DO WE KNOW?

A: RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOT MUCH OF A THREAT. THE SITUATION ON THE SA-2S IS A LITTLE HAZY, I WOULD REMIND YOU HOWEVER, THAT FOR THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE OVER TAN SON NHUT THEY HAVE TO BE WITHIN ABOUT 20 MILES. THEY CAN'T SHOOT FROM PHUC BINH INTO TAN SON NHUT, THEY DON'T HAVE THAT CAPABILITY. THE SA-7 PICTURE IS EVEN MORE HAZY. AGAIN, THAT'S, AS YOU KNOW, A RELATIVELY SHORT RANGE WEAPON SO THEY'D HAVE TO BE CLOSE. I DON'T WANT TO SAY THERE'S NO CHANCE OF IT HAPPENING BECAUSE YOU KNOW

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THEY COULD ALWAYS SNEAK IN AND POP OFF A COUPLE, BUT AS FAR AS BEING CLOSE ENOUGH FOR EITHER ONE TODAY, I'D SAY THE ANSWER TO THAT HAS TO BE NO, IN GENERAL TERMS.

Q: BUT IS IT NOT CORRECT THAT TECHNICALLY THE SAM-7S SEEM TO BE WITHIN RANGE OF TAN SON NHUT NOW?

A: I'D SAY TECHNICALLY, NO, I'D SAY THAT AGAIN FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT AFTER ALL THEY HAVE IN THE PAST SNEAKED IN ON TAN SON NHUT A NUMBER OF TIMES WITH A NUMBER OF KINDS OF WEAPONS BUT THEY'RE NOT THAT CLOSE FOR THE SA-7.

Q: I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SA-7, I'M SORRY IF I DID, I MEAN THE SAM-2. IS TECHNICALLY WITHIN RANGE OF TAN SON NHUT, MAYBE NOT WITHIN EFFECTIVE, PRACTICAL RANGE BUT THEY'RE WITHIN RANGE.

A: I'M THINKING MORE ABOUT EFFECTIVE, PRACTICAL, I GUESS TECHNICALLY YOU'D HAVE TO SAY THEY MUST BE SOMEPLACE IN THE PERIPHERY WHERE THEY COULD SET THEM UP IF THEY HAPPEN TO FIND OUT WHERE IT WAS, ETC. THAT'S A HARD QUESTION, THAT'S PRETTY THEORETICAL.

Q: HOW CLOSE ARE THEY NOW?

A: I'VE ALREADY ANSWERED THE QUESTION, OUR OPINION IS AS OF TODAY, THEY'RE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH.

Q: HOW MANY SHIPS ARE IN PHIBRON V?

A: WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT JUST BEFORE I CAME IN, IT'S EITHER FIVE OR SEVEN. LET ME TAKE THAT.

Q: IF SOME EMERGENCY AROSE THAT NECESSITATED THE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICANS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, ARE THE FORCES AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA NOW ADEQUATE TO GET THEM ALL OUT SAFELY?

A: CERTAINLY THERE'S ENOUGH LIFT, IF THAT'S YOUR QUESTION.

Q: NO, THAT'S NOT MY QUESTION.

A: THAT'S JUST TOO THEORETICAL, IT WOULD DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE SITUATION. THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE UMPTEN DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES THAT COULD OCCUR. UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY ENOUGH; IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS IT'S CONCEIVABLE TO YOU THAT CIRCUMSTANCES COULD ARISE WHERE THE AMERICANS COULD NOT BE GOTTEN OUT SAFELY --THE REMAINING AMERICANS.

A: THAT'S ALWAYS CONCEIVABLE, I DON'T CONSIDER THAT AS A PROBABILITY.

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Q: WHEN YOU SAY ENOUGH LIFT ARE YOU REFERRING TO HELICOPTERS IN A ONE-SHOT OPERATION OR ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL THE AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT NOW AVAILABLE?

A: AS YOU KNOW, OUR CONTINGENCY PLANS COVER ALL THREE CONTINGENCIES AND MAYBE WE EVEN HAVE SOME MORE ALTHOUGH I CAN'T THINK OF ANY. I WAS TALKING OF TOTAL LIFT. AGAIN, SPECULATING ON ALL OF THE POSSIBLE EVENTUALITIES, IT'S INTERESTING BUT IT ISN'T REALLY VERY WORTHWHILE ENDEAVOR FOR ME TO GET INTO.

Q: YOU MEAN ALL AMERICANS OUT?

A: THAT'S THE QUESTION, ALL AMERICANS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE?

A: HERE AGAIN YOU'RE FACING THE PROBLEM OF HOW MANY THE CONGRESS IS GOING TO AUTHORIZE AND W, O'S GOING TO MAKE THE DECISION, ETC.

Q: FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT WHAT ABOUT THE FIGURE THAT'S OFTEN USED, 175,000, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THAT NUMBER COULD BE GOTTEN OUT WITH THE LIFT CAPACITY WE NOW HAVE?

A: IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW YOU DID IT. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 222234Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 8905

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Q: DO TH BE CONTINGENCY PLANS INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF CALLING IN FORCES OTHER THAN MARINES SUCH AS THE AIRBORNE? I UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF NECESSARY WE WILL PROTECT OUR OPERATIONS TO EVACUATE AMERICANS AND THAT MIGHT REQUIRE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A SHOW.

A: WE WOULD AGAIN HAVE TO PLAY IT BY EAR, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO CONCEPTUALIZE A SITUATION WHERE YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE MORE FORCES.

Q: WELL HAS THE AIRBORNE FOR INSTANCE BEEN ALERTED? HAS THERE BEEN ANY ALERT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THOSE UNITS?

A: I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON THAT. I'LL VIOLATE MY OWN RULE AND TELL YOU THE ANSWER IS NO. THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF RUMORS FLOATING AROUND ON THIS AND IT'D BE WORTHWHILE TO SAY NO SO YOU WON'T BE MISLED..

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Q: FROM YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HELICOPTER OPERATIONS, IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE HELICOPTERS TO LIFT AMERICANS OUT OF DOWNTOWN SPOTS IN SAIGON?

A: OH YES.

Q: THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THIS COULD BE DONE?

A: I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO READ UP ON THE PHNOM PENH AFFAIR BUT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF LANDING ZONES. THAT'S THE ONE ADVANTAGE OF THE HELICOPTER IT DOESN'T HAVE TOO MUCH LIFT CAPACITY BUT IT CAN GO ALMOST ANYWHERE.

Q: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE PLAZA OR PARK AT THE CONTINENTAL PALACE HOTEL IN FRONT OF THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING? IS THAT AN AREA WHERE YOU COULD PICK UP PEOPLE?

A: THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT THERE BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO VERY FAR FROM THERE TO FIND A NUMBER OF PLACES WHERE IT WOULDN'T BE.

Q: YOU MEAN YOU HAVE TO HAVE A FAIRLY OPEN SPACE?

A: AS YOU KNOW, THEY CAN GO INTO A RATHER NARROW SPACE BUT THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN DOING IT UNLESS YOU HAVE TO.

Q: HOW DO YOU GUARD AGAINST CIVILIAN HANGERS-ON LIKE AT DA NANG?

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A: WE WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD HAVE THE SECURITY ON THE GROUND SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO PREVENT THAT.

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Q: THAT 20 MILES YOU MENTIONED, IS THAT THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF THE SA-2?

A: IN ORDER TO SHOOT OVER THE AREA THEY WANT TO HIT WITH ANY DEGREE OF ACCURACY THEY'VE GOT TO BE WITHIN 20 MILES.

Q: THAT'S FOR THE 7 AND THE 2?

A: NO, THAT'S THE 2.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE 7?

A: THAT'S 3.5 KILOMETERS.

Q: WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE US A RUNDOWN OF THE SHIPS NOW IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, PLEASE?

A: WE HAVE THE FIVE CARRIERS AND THE NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS TODAY. I THINK IF YOU SAID ABOUT 12 YOU'D BE CORRECT.

Q: IS THIS THE TROOP CARRIER TYPE AND LSTS AND ALL THAT?

A: NO, THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE MSC SHIPS, THAT'S A DIFFERENT FIGURE WHICH, AS I REMEMBER, IS ALSO ABOUT 12 BUT WE CAN GET YOU THAT EXACTLY. ON TOP OF THAT, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SOME FOREIGN SHIPS THAT HAVE SAID THEY'D BE WILLING TO HELP IN THE EVACUATION. SO IT'S A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF BOTTOMS.

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Q: HOW, HAVE YOU GOT DESTROYERS ALONG WITH THE CARRIERS -- ABOUT A DOZEN OR SO, OR WHAT?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION, WE'LL GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT AFTER.

Q: IS PHIBRON V INCLUDED IN THIS?

A: PHIBRON VI IS NOW INCLUDED.

Q: WHEN DID THAT ARRIVE?

A: JUST NOW, MAYBE LAST NIGHT.

Q: COULD WE GET THE DETAILS AND THE NUMBER OF SHIPS IN PHIBRON V AND THE NATURE OF THOSE SHIPS?

A: I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN GET.

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENTS OF PLANES INTO THAILAND?

A: THERE'S ALWAYS MOVEMENT IN AND OUT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

Q: HAVE YOU SENT ADDITIONAL PLANES INTO THAILAND?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT ONE.

Q: SPECIFICALLY, HAVE YOU SENT IN THE F-4S THAT CARRY THE ANTI-ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT?

A: I WON'T COMMENT ON THAT, EVEN IF WE HAD.

Q: HOW MANY DESTROYERS WERE THERE?

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A: I SAID I DON'T KNOW, I'M GOING TO LOOK THAT UP.

Q: THE NUMBER OF THE SEALIFT COMMAND TOO, THE CONTRACT SHIPS.

A: I GET THAT.

Q: ARE THOSE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS SIMILAR TO THE BLUE RIDGE?

A: THERE'RE ALL DIFFERENT KINDS, THERE'S LSTS, THERE'S LSDS, THAT'S THE BLUE RIDGE TYPE.

Q: IS THIS A BIG INCREASE? I MEAN WE'VE BEEN GOING BY FOUR AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORTS?

A: NO, THE BIG INCREASE IS PHIBRON V.

Q: DO YOU HAVE TWO OR THREE MSTs SHIPS IN SAIGON NOW?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT IT WAS FOUR BUT I'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN SAIGON, IT IS SAFE TO LIFT EVACUEES DOWN A RIVER THAT'S FAIRLY NARROW?

A: I WOULD THINK WE WOULDN'T DO IT UNLESS WE THOUGHT IT WAS REASONABLY SAFE. BUT REMEMBER, I KEEP TELLING YOU, WE'VE GOT A NUMBER OF OPTIONS STILL OPEN AND WE WANT TO KEEP THEM OPEN.

Q: ASSUMING THAT THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE EVACUATION PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4653 UNCLAS THAT'S GOING ON, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET ALL OF THE AMERICANS OUT?

A: I CAN'T SAY BECAUSE IT WOULD AGAIN DEPEND ON THE SITUATION. IT DEPENDS HOW MUCH OF A RUSH WE WANT TO GO INTO AND WHAT HAPPENS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY AND WHAT DECISIONS ARE MADE HERE. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DECISIONS MADE AT THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING, HAVEN'T THERE? SOME OF THE SENATORS WERE SAYING THEY EXPECT TO GET DOWN TO 1,500 AMERICANS BY THE END OF THE NIGHT.

A: WE ARE IN A THINNING OUT PROCESS, TRYING TO GET DOWN TO THE REALLY ESSENTIAL PEOPLE. WHETHER THAT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE 1,500 OR 2,000. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY SAID THIS MORNING.

Q: HOW MANY PLANES ARE YOU USING AND TYPE FOR TAKING PEOPLE OUT OF SAIGON?

A: C-130S, C-141S AND CHARTERS. THE NUMBER, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: THE CHARTERS ARE STRETCH DC-8S?

A: THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT KINDS. THEY HAVE DC-8S, 707S.

Q: COULD BIRD AIR AND THOSE OTHER CHARTERS BE USED?

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PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4654 1122248-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 222234Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 8905

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A: BIRD AIR WAS NOTIFIED THAT THEIR CONTRACT IS OVER. REMEMBER, THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT HAD THEM GOING TO THE 30TH OF JUNE, BUT WE HAD THE OPTION OF CANCELLING EARLIER AND WE HAVE.

Q: EFFECTIVE WHEN?

A: CONTRACT TERMINATION NOTICE WAS MADE ON 19 APRIL AND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION WAS GIVEN 21 APRIL.

I'VE BEEN ASKED BEFORE AND I DIDN'T HAVE THE INFORMATION, BUT WHAT CAN A C-141 CARRY. IN A PINCH, IF YOU WANT TO SEAT EVERYONE YOU CAN SQUEEZE IN -- 150. FOR A SHORT HAUL YOU COULD CARRY A FEW MORE.

Q: HAVE YOU MOVED OTHER MARINES FROM THE U.S. TO HONOLULU TO TAKE UP THE SLACK OF THOSE MOVED FROM HONOLULU?

A: I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS, LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.  
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Q: HOW MUCH AMMO WAS DESTROYED THIS MORNING AT BIEN HOA?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: HAVE THE MARINES LEFT HAWAII?

A: THEY HAVE LEFT.

Q: HOW CLOSE'RE NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS COMING UP ROUTE 4 TO TON SON NHUT NOW?

A: NOT VERY CLOSE COMING UP ROUTE 4. AT BEST IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF LONG AN PROVINCE WHICH WOULD BE -- THIS IS PRETTY HAZY --

Q: NOW, THAT'S ONE DIVISION MOVING UP THERE?

A: NO, THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF THE 8TH DIVISION, ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH DIVISION AND ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD DIVISION, ALL ARE SORT OF INVOLVED. I CAN'T SAY WHICH ONE IS IN THE ROUTE 4 AREA, PROBABLY THE 8TH.

Q: I GOT THE IMPRESSION UP ON THE HILL YESTERDAY THAT THIS IS THE SOURCE OF CONCERN, IS IT, THE MOVEMENT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS UP ROUTE 4?

A: I'M NOT SURE IT'S ANY MORE SOURCE OF CONCERN THAN A LOT OF THE OTHERS. OF COURSE, THE ADVANTAGE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IS THAT IT CUTS OFF THE RICE SUPPLY FROM THE DELTA.

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Q: WE'RE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE RICE SUPPLY, WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT AMERICANS.

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A: I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PICK ON ROUTE 4 AS OPPOSED TO THE THREAT TO BEIN HOA OR ANY OF THE OTHERS. I DON'T SEE THAT THAT'S ANY MORE THREATENING.

Q: HOW MANY DIVISIONS DO YOU HAVE NOW FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE ARVN IN THE SAIGON AREA?

A: I CAN GIVE YOU THE III CORPS SINCE EVERYBODY REPORTS OUT OF SAIGON AS IF ALL OF III CORPS IS A SUBURB OF SAIGON. WE SHOW A TOTAL OF 14 NORTH VIETNAMESE DIVISIONS EITHER IN OR VERY CLOSE TO THE III CORPS. ACTUALLY, IN III CORPS ARE NOW 11 AND PARTS OF THE 12TH AND A COUPLE AWFULLY CLOSE. SO 14 WOULD BE A GOOD FIGURE.

Q: DOES THAT COUNT THE DIVISIONS SOUTH OF SAIGON?

A: I AM COUNTING ALL THE WAY AROUND.

Q: WHAT ABOUT MR IV?

A: THE 4TH DIVISION IS DOWN DEEP IN MR IV. THE OTHER TWO DIVISIONS THAT WE WERE CARRYING IN MR IV, THE 5TH AND 8TH, ARE EITHER IN OR VERY CLOSE TO III CORPS. SO WE'RE COUNTING THEM IN III CORPS AT THIS POINT.

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Q: SO YOU HAVE ONE DIVISION IN IV CORPS?

A: ONENVA DIVISION, EXCEPT IT WAS REALLY MORE THAN THAT. I DON'T WANT TO MISLEAD YOU AS SOME OF THE FIFTH AND EIGHTH ARE STILL IN THE IV CORPS.

Q: WHAT DO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE TO HOLD OFF THESE 14 DIVISIONS IN THE III CORPS?

A: THEY'VE GOT QUITE A CONGLOMERATION. THEY'VE GOT WHAT'S LEFT OF THE 18TH DIVISION; THEY HAVE A GOOD BIT OF THE AIRBORNE DIVISION; THEY HAVE THE 25TH DIVISION; THE 5TH DIVISION AND ALSO AVAILABLE TO THEM ARE THE 7TH AND THE 9TH DIVISIONS, WHICH ARE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE IV CORPS ALSO. THEN THEY'VE RECONSTITUTED ABOUT FOUR BRIGADES FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM THE NORTH; THEY'VE GOT THREE ARMORED BRIGADES; FIVE RANGER GROUPS. TAKING THE 14 NVA DIVISIONS THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT, VERSUS ALL OF THESE UNITS I GAVE YOU ON THE ARVN, COMES TO ABOUT 130,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE AGAINST 60,000 ARVN. BUT THEY AREN'T FACE-TO-FACE, THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND. I'M JUST GIVING YOU THE GROSS FIGURES

Q: IS THIS III CORPS OR THE III AND IV CORPS?

A: THE III CORPS WITH THE EDGE OF THE IV CORPS; I HAD TO  
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THROW IN THE EDGE TO MAKE A LOGICAL CUT OFF POINT.

Q: THE 130,000 TO 60,000 IS IN THE IMMEDIATE BATTLE AREA OF THE III CORPS?

A: YES, THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE III CORPS.

Q: WHAT DO WE HAVE LEFT IN COMBAT ATTACK AIRCRAFT WITH VNAF?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: WHAT REPORTS ARE YOU GETTING FROM THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE ABOUT TROOPS, SAY FROM THE 18TH COMING BACK INTO SAIGON AND THEIR STATE OF DISCIPLINE?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT ONE. THE ONLY REPORTS THAT I HAVE

SEEN SAID THE 18TH FELL BACK ON BIEN HOA, RATHER THAN SAIGON AND ARE ENGAGED IN THE DEFENSE OF THE APPROACHES TO BIEN HOA. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY REPORTS OTHER THAN PRESS REPORTS OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE 18TH COMING BACK INTO SAIGON. I DID SEE THE PRESS STORY THAT SPECULATED ON THIS, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING OFFICIALLY.

Q: ARE YOU GETTING ANY REPORT FROM YOUR DEFENSE ATTACK OFFICE ABOUT STRAGGLERS WANDERING AROUND SAIGON ARMED?

A: I WON'T SAY, WE'RE NOT GETTING THEM, I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY. LET ME TAKE THAT.

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Q: IT'S NOT A SOURCE OF CONCERN AT THIS POINT?

A: I COULD WELL BECOME ONE. I GUESS I'D HAVE TO SAY RIGHT NOW, IT ISN'T EXCEPT AS A POTENTIAL CONCERN.

Q: JUST TO KEEP TRACK OF THESE NUMBERS, ARE THERE STILL ABOUT 40,000 REGULAR TROOPS IN MR IV.

A: THAT'S DOWN NOW IN VIEW OF THE MOVEMENT NORTH; IT'S ABOUT 35,000 IN THE IV CORPS, REMEMBER I SAID THE 7TH AND THE 9TH ARE AVAILABLE FOR USE IN III CORPS, BUT THEY'RE MOSTLY STILL IN IV CORPS, IN THE IV CORPS, THE ARV; STILL HAS A PREPONDERANCE --AGAIN TAKING THAT IMAGINARY LINE I GAVE YOU OF THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF III CORPS AND NOT COUNTING TROOPS THERE, WHAT'S LEFT FURTHER SOUTH IN IV CORPS IS ABOUT 28,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE AND 35,000 ARVN.

Q: WHEN DID YOU START USING C-130S IN THIS EVACUATION?

A: WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT. VE VB E HSSWG SSNE EC.130S, I THINK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BEEFING IT UP.

Q: YES.

A: I THINK IT WAS SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US HOW MANY FLIGHTS YOU'RE MAKING DAILY OUT OF SAIGON?

BT

#4654

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IN 16668/112/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4655 1122255-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

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UNCLAS 8905

SECTION 5 OF 6

A: IT VARIES EVERY DAY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE AN AVERAGE?

A: I DON'T HAVE IT, WE CAN START CARRYING THAT IF YOU LIKE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A COUNT OF HOW MANY AMERICANS HAVE COME OUT:  
HOW MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE COME OUT?

A: THIS IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO STATE. THEY'RE  
KEEPING BOOK ON THIS, NOT US.

Q: DO YOU HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM STATE NOT TO GIVE A BREAK-  
DOWN?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS; I'M NOT GIVING ANY FIGURES  
ON THIS, BREAKDOWN OR NO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FIGURES ON NUMBER OF TANKS ON EITHER  
SIDE AND HEAVY ARTILLERY; IN OTHER WORDS, ARE THE NVA PRETTY  
WELL EQUIPPED WITH TANKS?

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4655 UNCLAS

A: LET ME TAKE THAT LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK). THEY HAVE NO  
HEAVY ARTILLERY, OF COURSE. THEY HAVE 130S AND 122S WHICH ARE IN  
OUR LEXICON WILL BE MORE MEDIUM.

Q: WHAT'S HEAVY THEN?

A: WE GET UP TO 8-INCH AND 175S. WE CALL OUR 155S-6 INCHES --  
MEDIUM ARTILLERY. SO 122 YOU COULD EVEN CLASSIFY AS LIGHT. I  
DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CALL THEM. LET ME TAKE  
THAT.

Q: HOW MANY AWOL AMERICANS HAVE TURNED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?

A: LET ME TAKE ONE. I'VE HEARD SOME HUMOROUS STORIES OUT  
OF THERE, BUT NOTHING OFFICIAL.

Q: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THOSE PEOPLE WHEN THEY GET  
BACK?

A: OUR RULE ON THAT IS THAT EACH SERVICE WILL HANDLE IT'S  
OWN, AND I PRESUME THEY'LL HANDLE THEM THROUGH THE NORMAL  
DISCIPLINARY CHANNELS. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THEY'LL BE EVACUATED?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION. I WOULD THINK THEY WOULD, AFTER  
ALL THEY'RE AMERICAN CITIZENS.

Q: DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD OR THAT THEY WOULDN'T?

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A: WOULD.

Q: YOU THINK THEY WOULD?

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A: OUR PAST HISTORY HAS BEEN THAT WE WOULD TAKE THEM OUT. OF COURSE, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN TOO MANY EXAMPLES.

Q: IS THIS A SIZEABLE GROUP OF PEOPLE?

A: I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT OF NORTH VIETNAMESE COMBAT AIRCRAFT INTO THE SOUTH?

A: NOTHING SIZEABLE. AS OF THE END OF LAST WEEK THERE HAD NOT. LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT SOVIET SHIPS IN VARIOUS AREAS? FIRST SPECIFICALLY, THE TWO SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS THAT WERE REPORTED 750 MILES BEYOND HAWAII AND THEN THE OKEAN II EXERCISE, WHETHER THEY'RE ANY SIZEABLE INCREASES RECENTLY AND ANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. OR ALLIED SHIPS?

A: THE LAST QUESTION I CAN ANSWER IN THE NEGATIVE, NO INCIDENTS. THE EXERCISE IS STILL GOING ON AND AS FAR AS THE NAME OF IT, I'VE BEEN TOLD IS THE SPRING EXERCISE '75. IT'S SIMILAR TO OKEAN '70. NO INCIDENTS. OF THE TWO SHIPS THAT WERE OFF HAWAII, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT. I THOUGHT COLONEL BURKE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4655 UNCLAS

ANSWERED THAT ON FRIDAY, I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID, BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO, I'M SURE, WITH THE EXERCISE.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING NEW ON LT TRUNG. TO GET BACK TO HIM?

A: NO, NOTHING NEW ON LT TRUNG. I HAVEN'T CHECKED THAT RECENTLY. I'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T SCHEDULE A BRIEFING YESTERDAY?

A: UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS NOT HERE AND I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER.

Q: THE PRESIDENT LAST NIGHT SAID IT WOULD TAKE A SIZEABLE FORCE TO EVACUATE AMERICANS. MILITARILY, HOW DO YOU DEFINE THAT? WHAT IS A SIZEABLE FORCE?

A: I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU TO DEFINE IT FOR ME. THAT'S THE OLD QUESTION, RELATIVE TO WHAT? I DON'T KNOW. SOME PEOPLE WOULD CALL A THOUSAND SIZEABLE, AND SOME WOULD SAY IT HAD TO BE A HUNDRED THOUSAND, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. I DON'T THINK THAT'S AN ANSWERABLE QUESTION.

Q: THERE WAS A STORY RECENTLY THAT GENERAL WEYAND SUPPOSEDLY TOLD CONGRESS THAT 20,000 TROOPS WOULD BE NEEDED TO CREATE AN AREA. . . .

A: NOW WE'RE GETTING BACK INTO THIS OLD THING WE STARTED OFF PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4655 UNCLAS

WITH, I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GET INTO THAT. EVERYTHING WOULD DEPEND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU CAN ENVISION A CASE WHERE YOU COULD DO IT WITH A BATTALION, AND YOU COULD ENVISION A CASE WHERE YOU'D NEED A CORPS. THERE'S NO WAY TO SPECULATE ON THAT.

Q: GENERAL WEYAND SAID THAT SAIGON FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES IS NOT DEFENSIBLE, IS THAT THE GENERAL FEELING IN THIS BUILDING THAT IT IS NO LONGER DEFENSIBLE NO MATTER WHAT AID THEY GET?

A: I DID NOT SEE THAT STATEMENT. I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE MEANT. YOU KNOW ANY CITY IS DEFENSIBLE IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH TROOPS. A



CITY IS A PRETTY GOOD THING TO FIGHT FROM. HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING IS THE HARDEST TYPE OF FIGHTING. SO I'M SURE HE DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.

Q: HE TOLD THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES AT THIS MOMENT.

A: MAYBE HE MEANT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO THROW ENOUGH TROOPS AROUND THE CITY TO COVER THE WHOLE THING.

Q: I THINK IT WAS GENERAL THIEU SAID THAT THE WAR CANNOT BE WON MILITARILY, IS THAT THE OPINION IN THE BUILDING?

PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4655 UNCLAS

A: CANNOT BE WON BY WHOM?

Q: BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

A: WE'RE GETTING DOWN TO MATTERS OF OPINION, I DON'T THINK I SHOULD COMMENT ON THB.

Q: HAVE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MOVED ANY TROOPS TOWARD VUNG TAU, THE APPARENT INTENTION OF. . . .

A: WE'RE WATCHING THAT. AS OF NOV, THE ANSWER TO THAT IS NO. THAT'S AN OPTION THEY HAVE.

Q: HOW CLOSE ARE THEY?

A: A LONG WAY, 60-70 KILOMETERS, WOULD BE THE CLOSEST, I'M GIVING THEM AN EDGE.

Q: WHAT U.S. NAVAL OR SEALIFT COMMAND OR OTHER CONTRACT ASSETS, DO WE HAVE NEAR THE PORT OF VUNG TAU?

A: NOT TOO MUCH, IN AND AROUND VUNG TAU THERE ARE ABOUT FIVE SHIPS AT THE MOMENT.

Q: ANY WAR SHIPS OR COMBAT TYPE?

A: NO COMBAT TYPES.

Q: ARE ANY AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS IN THE REGION OF OKINAWA?

A: NO.

Q: ARE THERE ANY AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS IN SUBIC?

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#4655

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IN 16674/112/75

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PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4656 1122258-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

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SECTION 6 OF 6

A: WE HAVE THEM IN AND OUT OF SUBIC ALL THE TIME.

Q: OR IN THE VICINITY OF SUBIC?

A: THEY'RE JUST SCATTERED ALL OVER THE PLACE OVER THERE.

AS OF THIS PARTICULAR SECOND I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY IN SUBIC BUT THAT'S NOT VERY MEANINGFUL, BECAUSE THEY COME IN AND OUT.

Q: ARE THERE ANY MOVING SOUTH THAT HAVE RECENTLY LEFT OKINAWA?

A: PHIBRON V, IS THE ONE I MENTIONED.

Q: ABOUT HOW MANY AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN THIS FLOTILLA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

A:

WE'VE GIVEN THE FIGURE OF 4,000 MARINES. I DON'T KNOW THE NAVY STRENGTH. I'LL TAKE THAT. IT'S PROBABLY A SIZEABLE FIGURE.

Q: WHEN PHIBRON V LEFT OKINAWA DID IT TAKE ANY MARINES FROM PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4656 UNCLAS OKINAWA WITH IT?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS NO, BUT I'M GOING TO CHECK IT.

Q: WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE IMPETUS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE AS COMPARED TO SAY THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO, HAS IT SLOWED, HAS IT MAINTAINED THE SAME LEVEL, HAS IT INCREASED?

A: THE ACTION AS OF TODAY, SINCE THEY'RE 12 HOURS AHEAD, WAS LIGHT. SO TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION -- I THINK IT MIGHT BE MISLEADING -- BUT IT IS SLOWED FOR THE MOMENT, BUT I WOULDN'T LEAN ON THAT VERY HEAVILY.

Q: DID YOU SAY IT WAS LIGHT IN THE PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD?

A: THE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE WHICH COVER TODAY, YOU KNOW WE'RE TWELVE HOURS BEHIND, ARE DEFINITELY LIGHT.

Q: AND MONDAY?

A: LIGHT COMPARED TO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, YES.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE BEFORE, MODERATE OR HEAVY?

A: WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT OVER THE WEEKEND, YOU WERE SLIPPING FROM HEAVY INTO MODERATE INTO LIGHT IS WHAT'S HAPPENED, THE TREND HAS GONE DOWN BUT I REALLY THINK THAT ANY ANSWER I GIVE IS BOUND TO BE MISLEADING BECAUSE I DON'T CONSIDER THAT NECESSARILY A TREND.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4656 UNCLAS

Q: IS THERE A LOWER CLASSIFICATION?

A: NO, WE HAVE LIGHT, MEDIUM AND HEAVY.

6/6

Q: IS THERE ANY APPARENT THRUST -- A FEW DAYS AGO THERE WERE 11 DIVISIONS AROUND SAIGON, NOW THEY'RE FOURTEEN.

A: LET'S GO BACK -- AROUND SAIGON, AGAIN. . . .

Q: I DIDN'T MEAN IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.

A: THERE'S AN INCREASE, OBVIOUSLY. THE LAST FIGURE WE GAVE YOU WAS TWELVE AND NOW WE'RE GIVING YOU FOURTEEN, SO THERE'S AN INCREASE OF TWO.

Q: ARE ANY OF THE FIVE IN THE NORTHERN REGIONS MOVING SOUTH?

A: SOME HAVE.

Q: ANY SIGN OF THE DIVISIONS IN THE DELTA MOVING NORTH?

A: ADD THOSE, TOO.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)?

A: NO, THE LAST TIME WE DISCUSSED THIS WE WERE AT ABOUT 10 AS I RECALL. WE WENT FROM 8 TO 10 TO 12 TO 14. SO THEY'RE COMING IN MOSTLY FROM THE NORTH, BUT TWO ONLY FROM THE SOUTH.

Q: THE THRUST OF MY QUESTION WAS DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA FROM THIS WHAT TO EXPECT, IS THERE ANY APPARENT STRATEGY DEVELOPING FOR THE NVA?

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A: THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THEM OF COURSE REMAIN BASICALLY TWO, YOU COULD CUT OFF SAIGON WITHOUT ATTACKING IT. OR YOU COULD ATTACK IT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL AT THIS POINT.

Q: DOES IT APPEAR THOSE DIVISIONS MOVING UP FROM THE SOUTH ARE TRYING TO CUT OFF SAIGON RATHER THAN ATTACK SAIGON?

A: THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TELL AT THIS POINT, THAT'S THE POINT OF THE QUESTION, I CAN'T ANSWER IT.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE DIVISIONS MOVING UP FROM THE SOUTH ARE DOING THEN?

A: THEY'RE GETTING INTO A POSITION TO CUT IT OFF AND THEY COULD CERTAINLY GO FROM THERE TO ATTACKING IT.

Q: WHERE DO THEY APPEAR TO BE LOCATED SPECIFICALLY?

A: THEY'RE MORE SOUTHWEST THAN ANY OTHER DIRECTION.

Q: ASSUMING THE AMERICAN CONTINGENT IS REDUCED TO 1,200 PERSONS AND TAKING THE HELICOPTER CAPACITY YOU NOW HAVE AVAILABLE, HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO EVACUATE 1,200 AMERICANS.

A: YOU MEAN IF WE HAD TO GO IN RIGHT NOW -- IT COULD BE DONE IN A DAY BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT BECAUSE THAT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MUCH OPPOSITION THERE WAS, HOW QUICKLY YOU COULD GET

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4656 UNCLAS

THE PEOPLE YOU WERE EVACUATING TOGETHER AND A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPONDERABLES. BUT THE ACTUAL LIFT CAPACITY AND THE DISTANCE TO BE FLOWN IS ENOUGH SO YOU COULD DO IT IN A DAY, OR LESS THAN A DAY, 9 HOURS MAYBE, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE LEFT IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: I REFER YOU TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THAT.

Q: ARE WE GOING TO FLY PRESIDENT THIEU OUT OF SAIGON TO TAIWAN OR ANY PLACE LIKE THAT?

A: THIS AGAIN IS A STATE DEPARTMENT QUESTION, I'M SURE THAT IF HE MADE SUCH A REQUEST IT WOULD RECEIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPA-

THETIC CONSIDERATION.

Q: WHAT'S THE POLICY OF THE U.S. ARMY OR AIR FORCE, WHOEVER WOULD BE INVOLVED AS TO THE REMOVAL OF GOLD FROM SAIGON?

A: AGAIN, THAT IS NOT IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AREA. WE'RE THE IMPLEMENTERS BUT WE DON'T MAKE THE DECISIONS.

BT

#4656

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IN 16679/112/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4766 1132238-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

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TO AIG 8799AIG

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SECTION 1 OF 5

FROM OASD/PA

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FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY MGEN SIDLE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: MR. GREENBERG, DIRECTOR OF MANPOWER PROGRAMS (OASD-M&RA) IS BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS CONDUCTING HEARINGS ON VOCATIONAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND CAREER EDUCATION.

2. NO SPEECHES TODAY.

3. THERE WAS A REPORT THAT THERE WOULD BE A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00, THAT IS TOTALLY UNTRUE, UNFOUNDED WITHOUT BASIS. FEDERATION OF AMERICAN ARAB ORGANIZATIONS IS MEETING WITH MR. ELLSWORTH, ASD(ISA) IN A CLOSED SESSION AT 3:00 PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS BUT THERE'S NO PRESS CONFERENCE INVOLVED.

Q: WHAT'S THE SUBJECT?

A: WHAT THE FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES WANT TO DISCUSS WITH DOD WAS NOT SPECIFIED.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FEDERATION, IS IT PRIVATE OR QUASI-OFFICIALS?

A: I THINK IT'S MORE PRIVATE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND OUT TOO MUCH ABOUT IT BUT THERE ARE SOME AMERICAN ARABS UNOFFICIAL GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY APPARENTLY HAVE FORMED INTO A FEDERATION. I DON'T KNOW HOW OLD IT IS BUT THEY DID WRITE IN AND ASK TO TALK WITH A KNOWLEDGEABLE DEFENSE OFFICIAL AND MR. ELLSWORTH AGREED TO TALK TO THEM; SUBJECTS ARE UNKNOWN. I HAD BREAKFAST WITH MR. ELLSWORTH AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO ASK HIM.

4. RELEASE ON MONTHLY STRENGTH FIGURES FOR MARCH.

5. RELEASE ON THE NEW 8 INCH MAJOR CALIBRE LIGHTWEIGHT GUN OF THE NAVY WHICH HAS BEEN FIRED SUCCESSFULLY IN ITS INITIAL TESTS. THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR SOME YEARS AND IT'S DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE 5 INCH GUNS THAT ARE PRESENTLY ON DESTROYERS. IT'S ACTUALLY LIGHTER AND TAKES LESS SHIPBOARD SPACE THAN THE OLD 8 INCH GUN THAT WAS ON CRUISERS. IT'S APPARENTLY A GREAT WEAPON. IT'S AUTOMATIC AND PERMITS A SINGLE

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OPERATOR TO LOAD AND FIRE PROJECTILES.

Q: IT'S NOT LASER GUIDED?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q: ARE THE SAM-2S NOW WITHIN RANGE OF TAN SON NHUT?

A: NOT THAT WE COULD DETERMINE YET. I HATE TO SAY NO, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE. THAT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME AS YOU WELL KNOW.

Q: HAVE ANY OF THE PLANES COME UNDER EITHER MISSILE OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE?

A: NO PLANES HAVE COME UNDER MISSILE FIRE. WE HAVE FOUR REPORTS OF PLANES POSSIBLY COMING UNDER SOME KIND OF GROUND FIRE. I BROUGHT ONE ALONG AND IT'S VERY HAZY. FOR INSTANCE, AND THIS IS TYPICAL, THE PILOT WHILE TURNING TO MAKE HIS APPROACH TO TAN SON NHUT, HE WAS QUITE AWAYS OUT STILL, DETECTED CIRCULAR WHITE MUZZLE FLASHES WHICH APPEARED TO BE FIRED DIRECTLY AT THE AIRCRAFT, BUT NO TRACES OR AIR BURSTS SHOWED UP -- WHICH AS YOU CAN SEE MAKES THIS A VERY HAZY REPORT. THE PEOPLE ON THE SCENE ARE CONVINCED THAT NONE HAVE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS ACTUALLY BEEN FIRED AT YET.

Q: ARE THE PLANES FOLLOWING ANY SPECIAL TACTICS GOING IN AND OUT OF THE AIRPORT?

A: I DON'T KNOW, I KNOW THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT THEY WERE ANYWAY.

Q: WHY NOT?

A: SURELY YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q: NO, I DON'T.

A: IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL A GUY WHO IS MAY BE GOING TO SHOOT AT YOU HOW YOU'RE GOING TO COME INTO THE AIRPORT, THAT'S A VERY HELPFUL THING TO HIM.

Q: ARE THESE WHITE PUFFS SIMILAR TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE?

A: THERE ARE NO PUFFS.

Q: WHAT'D YOU SAY?

A: HE SAW FLASHES FROM THE WEAPONS.

Q: THERE WERE NO HITS THOUGH.

A: AS I SAY, NO HITS, NO TRACERS, NO AIRBURSTS.

Q: DID SOME PILOTS REPORT TRACER BULLETS?

A: SOME OF THEM REPORTED TRACERS BUT ON FURTHER QUESTIONING IT WAS DETERMINED THEY WEREN'T NECESSARILY COMING AT THEM. YOU PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS KNOW IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TELL UP IN THE AIR IF YOU SEE A TRACER GOING LIKE THIS -- YOU KNOW IT IS GOING TO MISS YOU BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S AIMED AT YOU.

Q: DID ANYONE OF THOSE PILOTS HEAR TYPICAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT TYPE EXPLOSIONS?

A: WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF THAT.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION OF DAMAGE, IN OTHER WORDS, FRAGMENTS?

A: NO, NOT A ONE. WE'RE TREATING THIS WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION AT THIS POINT. WE DON'T WANT TO SAY THEY WEREN'T SHOT

AT BUT WE SURE DON'T HAVE ANY HARD PROOF THAT THEY WERE.

Q: NONE OF THE FOUR REPORT ANY AIRBURSTS?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: SOME OF THE FOUR SAW TRACERS?

A: YES.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY THE SAM-2S ARE NOT WITHIN RANGE DOES THIS MEAN NONE HAVE BEEN FIRED AT INCOMING PLANES?

A: I'M SAYING WE DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE. NONE HAVE BEEN FIRED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE DOUBT THAT THEY COULD BE WITHIN RANGE IF THEY WANTED TO BE?

A: I WOULD SAY THEY CERTAINLY COULD BE. NEEDLES TO SAY, EVERYONE'S LOOKING.

Q: HOW MANY EVACUATIONS FLIGHTS WERE CONDUCTED THERE, FOR EXAMPLE, TODAY SAIGON TIME?

A: WE HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE KEEPING TRACK OF THAT SINCE STATE IS SUPPOSED TO REPORT ON THIS. NOT ALL OF THE FLIGHTS ARE ACTUALLY AIR FORCE PLANES. YOU KNOW THERE'RE SOME CHARTERS. LET ME TRY TO GET AN ANSWER ON THAT I SHOULD THINK WE'D BE ABLE TO GET ONE.

Q: IS IT ALSO CORRECT THAT SOME OF THE FLIGHTS ARE NOW GOING TO GUAM?

A: YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: WHY IS THAT?

A: STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT GUAM WAS GOING TO REPLACE CLARK AS THE CENTRAL HANDLING POINT AT LEAST FOR VIETNAMESE. NOW THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SOME STILL WON'T GO TO CLARK. THE CENTRAL, THE BASIC POINT, WILL BE GUAM.

Q: WHAT DO YOU MEAN VIETNAMESE; THAT'S ALL WE'RE EVACUATING ISN'T IT?

BT

#4766

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IN 17828/113/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4767 1132241-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

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FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

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UNCLAS 1098

SECTION 2 OF 5

A: WE'RE EVACUATING AMERICANS TOO.

Q: I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. THE AMERICANS MIGHT COME INTO CLARK BUT THE VIETNAMESE WILL GO TO GUAM.

Q: ARE THERE STILL AMERICANS LEAVING ON THEIR OWN, PAYING THEIR OWN WAY, USING COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS?

A: THERE MUST BE BUT I'LL CHECK THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY REPORT ON THAT. THEY'RE KEEPING TRACK OF EVERYBODY NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE SOME AMERICANS WHO MIGHT HAVE LEFT ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS OUT OF SAIGON AND THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN ANY TOTALS THAT ARE AVAILABLE?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION. IF YOU ASKED ME LAST WEEK, I KNOW LAST WEEK THAT WAS TRUE. THEY WERE KEEPING TRACK OF THEM SO I PRESUME THEY'RE STILL KEEPING TRACK OF THEM BUT I DON'T

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4767 UNCLAS

KNOW THAT ANY ARE GOING THAT WASY NOW.

Q: SHOULDN'T ALL NON-ESSENTIAL AMERICANS BE OUT BY NOW?

A: I WOULD THINK SO, WE'RE GETTING DOWN.

Q: ALL THAT'S GOING OUT NOW IS VIETNAMESE?

A: NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID YES TO ALL, THEY'RE GETTING DOWN TO MORE ESSENTIAL AS THEY THIN OUT.

Q: BUT THE HEAVY MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LEAVING ARE NOW VIETNAMESE?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT'S CORRECT, BUT I WOULD ASK YOU TO PLEASE ASK YOUR REFUGEE QUESTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE ONLY THE EXECUTIVE AGENT ON THIS, I'M NOT IN A POSITION REALLY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

Q: THERE'S ONE ALLIED QUESTION, WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOGISTICALLY? YOU CAN'T SUDDENLY DUMP SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE ON AN ISLAND LIKE GUAM WITHOUT PREPARING TENTS AND MAKING SURE FOOD IS IN THERE AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND THE REST OF IT.

A: OF COURSE THIS ISN'T ALL THAT SUDDEN. IN OTHER WORDS, THE COMMANDER ON GUAM, ADMIRAL MORRISON, WAS INFORMED THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN AND HE HAS THE CAPABILITY TO HANDLE SEVERAL THOUSAND AS FAR AS HOUSING IS CONCERNED RIGHT OFF THE BAT. OBVIOUSLY,

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4767 UNCLAS

IF THE NUMBER GETS LARGE, HE WILL HAVE TO GO INTO TENTS AND I'M SURE THEY CAN FLY IN THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES AND SO FORTH.

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Q: ARE WE NOW LOADING SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON THOSE FIVE COMMERCIAL SHIPS THAT ARE IN PORT NEAR SAIGON?

A: MY INFORMATION IS WE'RE NOT LOADING ANYONE ON THOSE SHIPS.

Q: ARE THERE FIVE OR FOUR?

A: THERE ARE FOUR THERE; FIVE YESTERDAY.

Q: DID ONE LEAVE WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON IT?

A: ONE LEFT EMPTY AS I UNDERSTAND IT. IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY VIETNAMESE ON IT. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR?

A: AS I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, IT GETS INTO OUR MANY CONTINGENCY PLANS AND IT'S 'IN CASE' PROPOSITION.

Q: TO EVACUATE WHO?

A: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED LATER. YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION AS EASILY AS I CAN. IT'S ALL GOING TO DEPEND ON THE SITUATION.

Q: DOES THAT INCLUDE SOME 100,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OUT OF THERE? IS THE ARMADA THERE TO TAKE OUT 100,000?

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A: THE ARMADA IS THERE TO DO WHAT IT'S TOLD TO DO WHEN THE TIME COMES AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WILL BE WHAT IT DOES OR NOT.

Q: CAN WE FIND OUT WHAT THIS ARMADA CONSISTS OF?

A: I UNDERSTOOD WE GAVE THAT TO YOU YESTERDAY. THERE ARE FIVE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND SEVEN SHIPS WITH PHIBRON V. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS DEPLOYED IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA IS ABOUT A DOZEN. HOW MANY MSC SHIPS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE? TEN MSC PLUS ABOUT A DOZEN FOREIGN AND THERE ARE SEVERAL TUGS AND NUMEROUS BARGES. I GAVE YOU THE COMMERCIAL SHIPS, THAT'S ABOUT A DOZEN. THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN DESTROYERS.

Q: HOW ABOUT FIFTEEN?

A: IF YOU WANT TO SAY FIFTEEN, THAT WOULD BE REASONABLY CLOSE.

Q: WHAT'S THE POINT IN TELLING US THE NUMBER OF CARRIERS BUT NOT THE DESTROYERS.

A: YOU CAN USE AS A RULE OF THUMB, AS YOU KNOW, THE CARRIER ALWAYS TAKES TWO OR THREE DESTROYERS WITH THEM.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE LONG BEACH?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT.

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4767 UNCLAS

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A TOTAL NUMBER OF THE MARINES?

A: AGAIN I CAN'T GIVE YOU A FIRM FIGURE. PHIBRONS NORMALLY CARRY A BATTALION LANDING TEAM WHICH VARY IN SIZE BUT IF YOU FIGURE 800 TO 1,000, THAT'S THE NORMAL FIGURE. SO THIS PHIBRON V HAS EMBARKED A MARINE BATTALION LANDING TEAM.

Q: WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

A: OKINAWA.

Q: YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE US THE TYPES IN THE PHIBRON SO WE COULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY COULD GO UP ON THE BEACH?

A: TWO LSTS: TWO LSDS; AN LKA AND TWO LPDS.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW IN YOUR DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN SAIGON?

A: ABOUT 150, BUT I'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: WHY ARE THOSE TRANSPORT SHIPS NEAR SAIGON?

A: I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THEM. I TOLD YOU THAT THEY ARE THERE IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED THIS WHOLE FLEET IS THERE TO BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

Q: NOW THAT MOST OF THE AMERICANS ARE THERE EXCEPT TO EVACUATE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

A: YOU CAN DRAW THAT CONCLUSION. I'M JUST NOT GOING TO PREDICT WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE USED FOR.

Q: WHAT IS THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF ALL THE SHIPS? HOW MANY HUMAN BEINGS CAN THAT FLEET TAKE OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION. IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW FAR IT'S GOING, OK. IN OTHER WORDS IF YOU ARE GOING TO MOVE A SHIP FROM VUNG TAU OR SAIGON TO THE PHILIPPINES YOU COULD TAKE A CONSIDERABLY LARGER NUMBER THAN IF YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE THEM 1500 TO 2,000 MILES.

Q: HOW MANY TRANSPORT SHIPS FOR HUMAN BEINGS IN THIS WHOLE FLEET DO YOU HAVE?

A: WE CAN'T USE THAT AS A FIGURE BECAUSE IN OUR PREVIOUS REFUGEE EFFORTS WE USED CARGO SHIPS AS WELL AS TRANSPORTS.

Q: FOR THIS PURPOSE?

A: ALL OF THESE SHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE IF WE WANT TO USE THEM FOR IT.

Q: OBVIOUSLY, YOU COULD TAKE OUT ABOUT 100,000 PEOPLE.

A: I WOULD SAY THAT WOULD BE EASY.

Q: DO YOU AHE ANYTHING ON HELICOPTERS AND MARINES ABOARD THE MIDWAY?

A: I DON T HAVE ANYTING ABOUT MARINES; THE MIDWAY DOES HAVE

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HELICOPTERS ABOARD. I KNOW OF NO MARINE MOVEMENT TO THE MIDWAY.

Q: HOW MANY HELICOPTERS?

A: I CAN'T SAY.

Q: WHAT KIND OF HELICOPTERS?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: ANYMORE MARINE MOVEMENTS FROM HAWAII TO OKINAWA?

A: NO.

Q: OR FROM THE WEST COAST TO HAWAII?

A: NO MOVEMENTS OF THAT TYPE GOING ON.

Q: THE PLANES ON THE CARRIER, DO THEY HAVE THE DEVICES THAT SEEK OUT MISSILES AND AUTOMATICALLY FIRE THE ROCKET TO ATTACK MISSILE SITES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: HOW MANY HELICOPTERS, ROUND OR PRECISE FIGURE, ARE AVAILABLE ON THESE CARRIERS FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES?

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION. I KNOW WE CAN GIVE YOU A ROUND FIGURE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE A SORT OF GENERAL IDEA OF THEIR CAPACITY IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL? THE REASON FOR MY QUESTION IS TO DETERMINE IF IT'S GOING TO TAKE ONE 'FELL SWOOP' OR WHAT?

A: IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE 'FELL SWOOP'. BUT AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY, WE CAN DO THAT DEPENDING ON THE POSITION. THAT'S AN EASY DAY'S JOB. YOU COULD IT IT LESS THAN A DAY IF ITS ORGANIZED AND NOBODY IS STOPPING YOU.

Q: YOU CONSIDER IT ONE OPERATION?

A: IT WOULD BE ONE OPERATION, SAME AS THE PHNOM PENH.

Q: WAS IT THE PLAN TO STAGE OUT OF VUNG TAU IF YOU HAVE TO USE HELICOPTERS?

A: THAT IS ONE OF THE CONTINGENCIES, THERE ARE A NUMBER. AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE GREAT VARIETY INVOLVED, THAT OBVIOUSLY IS A POSSIBILITY BUT IT'S NOT REQUIRED.

Q: THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE EVACUATION LONG HAUL AND SHORT HAUL REALLY ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT, IF YOU WANT TO GET PEOPLE OUT.

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A: IT IS ON SHIPS.

Q: NOT IF YOU WANT THE PEOPLE OUT, WE CAN GET THEM OUT.

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A: NOW, YOU'RE ASSUMING SOME SORT OF A SYSTEM WHEREBY THEY CAN GET ON BOARD, OH YES.

Q: IS THERE ANY PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPINES ABOUT BRINGING MORE PEOPLE IN, IS THERE A LACK OF CAPACITY FOR ADDITIONAL STAGING?

A: CLARK IS NOT REALLY A GOOD PLACE FOR ANY KIND OF A MASSIVE OPERATION OF THAT TYPE. THEY CAN HANDLE A COUPLE OF THOUSAND. THAT WAS ONE OF THE MAIN TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS FOR TROOPS BUT THEY CLOG UP PRETTY FAST.

Q: DIDN'T THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ALSO OBJECT TO THAT?

A: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, I'D HAVE TO CHECK THAT. MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK STATE.

Q: CAN THE F-14S BE USED OPERATIONALLY AS A COVER IN ASSISTING THE EVACUATION?

A: YES, SURELY, SURELY.

Q: WE WERE DOWN TO 1,500 YESTERDAY, IS THAT 1,500 AND HOLDING?

A: AGAIN, I'LL REFER YOU TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AN PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS ACCURATE FIGURE ON THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF AMERICANS ARE STILL COMING OUT?

A: YES, I CAN SAY THAT, THAT'S A FACT.

Q: ARE THERE ANY MOVEMENTS OF B-52S TOWARD GUAM?

A: I WOULDN'T COMMENT ON THAT ANYWAY.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY INCREASE IN THE B-52 ON GUAM?

A: I KNOW OF NO WORLDWIDE CHANGE IN ANY B-52 SETUP.

Q: ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLANES IN THAILAND?

A: AGAIN, THAT'S THE SORT OF THING I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON.

Q: HAVE ANY MARINES IN THE UNITED STATES OR HAWAII BEEN ALERTED FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

A: NO ORDERS HAVE GONE OUT OF THIS BUILDING TO ALERT ANYBODY FOR ANYTHING.

Q: AFP REPORTED FROM SAIGON TODAY, THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE -- THIS IS SKETCHY -- IS USING A SORT OF BOMB NOW WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS A COMPRESSION BOMB WHICH CREATES A VACUUM WHICH SUFFOCATES PEOPLE.

A: I SAW THAT. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY BOMB LIKE THAT, THE REPORT I SAW CALLED IT AN 'ULTRALETHAL, ASPHIXIATION BOMB' AND THAT'S PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS A NEW ONE ON ME. AS FAR AS I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN OUR INVENTORY, SO I VIEWED THAT REPORT WITH SOME DOUBT.

Q: NAPALM WILL HAVE THAT EFFECT?

A: OF COURSE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE A NEW ULTRALETHAL ASPHIXIATED BOMB.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE ARMY OR THE AIR FORCE HAVE DEVELOPED A WEAPON THAT SORT OF SUCKS THE OXYGEN OUT OF AN AREA.

A: WE HAD A BOMB A WHILE BACK THAT WAS -- AS A SIDE EFFECT DID SUCK SOME OXYGEN -- NOT ENOUGH TO BE USED AS A WEAPON

ITSELF -- BUT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE EXPLOSION OF OTHER BOMBS. THAT'S NOT NEW. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF IT MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION ON THAT.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

A: NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: COULD NAPALM ASPHIXIATE?

A: IF THEY MEAN NAPALM, EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT NAPALM IS -- THEY HAVE NAPALM.

Q: IF THEY HAD FOUND A CORPSE THAT WAS ASPHIXIATED AND NOT PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS BURNED, COULD NAPALM HAVE DONE THAT?

A: YES, BUT THAT'S NOT A NEW ULTRALETHAL ASPHIXIATION BOMB.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED A \$1.1 MILLION 'PAMER FUND' TO FIND SOME WAY OF TAKING CARE OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS NOW THAT THEY ARE BEING STRIPPED OF THEIR ENLISTED AIDES?

A: AS YOU PHRASE THE QUESTION, I'M SURE THE ANSWER IS NO BECAUSE WE HAVE NO FUNDS EARMARKED TO PAMPER GENERALS. HAVING BEEN KEEPING A 17-ROOM HOUSE MYSELF WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE, I CAN SEE THE NEED FOR SUCH A FUND. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE MONEY FIGURE. THERE IS A STUDY GOING ON TO SEE IF THERE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THE 55-YEAR OLD HOUSEWIFE WHO HAS TO KEEP A 17-ROOM HOUSE WITHOUT MAKING HER HUSBAND COME HOME FROM WORK TO HELP HER -- THERE'S A STUDY ON THAT -- I HAVEN'T HEARD A DOLLAR FIGURE BUT LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: SOMETIME AGO, I ASKED WHY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WAS CLOSING DOWN THE FLAG OFFICERS DINING ROOM; THAT WAS A SELF-SUPPORTING OPERATION? YOU NEVER GAVE US AN ANSWER.

A: IT WAS NOT SELF-SUPPORTING. HOWEVER, LET ME BRING YOU

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UP TO DATE ON THAT. I HAVEN'T GIVEN YOU AN ANSWER BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T GOT IT RESOLVED YET. I HAVE MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE AND THEY HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE RATIONALE ON WHY THEY CLOSED IT DOWN WHICH I JUST RECEIVED MONDAY AND I'M STUDYING IT AT THE MOMENT TO SEE IF WE CONCUR. YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT, THERE ISN'T ANY PLACE TO GO UNLESS THEY DO SOMETHING.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO CLARIFY THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PROFITS THAT THEY DERIVE FROM THE VARIOUS CONCESSIONS?

A: I'LL CHECK THAT. I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHER THAN THAT. AS YOU KNOW, THE WELFARE FUND BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVE NOT CHECKED THAT.

Q: IS THAT JUSTIFIABLE?

A: THAT MAY BE A MATTER OF OPINION.

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Q: THE FACT THAT IT WENT ON A LONG TIME, DOESN'T JUSTIFY IT.

A: NO, I AGREE WITH THAT. JUST BECAUSE IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR GRANDFATHERS, DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US.

Q: HOW MANY MARINES DO WE HAVE ON OKINAWA NOW?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: IT WOULD BE CORRECT TO SAY THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER WITH THIS FORCE IS 5,000?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO NUMBERS, BUT YOU'RE ALLOWED TO SPECULATE.

Q: WHEN PHIBRON WENT OUT TO THE PACIFIC, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO ROTATE WITH EXISTING PHIBRON FORCES? HAS IT?

A: NO, THEY'RE BOTH THERE.

Q: IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

A: THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA, YES.

Q: THAT'S ANOTHER BLT THEN?

A: NO, THAT'S THE ONE WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT -- SAME ONE -- NOT ANOTHER ONE. THERE'S NO ADDITIONAL ONE. THE ONLY RECENT ADDITION IS THE ONE I JUST MENTIONED; PICKED UP BY PHIBRON V.

Q: I'M CONFUSED AS TO WHAT THE EXISTING PHIBRON WAS.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS

A: YOU'LL RECALL THE OKINAWA TASK FORCE OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, HAD A MARINE BLT, THAT WAS ASSOCIATED WITH

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THE PHIBRON. THAT'S THE NORMAL WAY THESE FELLOWS ARE USED. THE ONLY THING WE DID DIFFERENTLY ON THIS ONE, IS THAT WE HAD THOSE 700 THAT WE MOVED DOWN FOR THE EVACUATION WITH THE BLUE RIDGE GROUP.

Q: ON THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE BOMBING, THEY DO USE AMERICAN SUPPLIED NAPALM, DON'T THEY?

A: THEY HAVE THAT.

Q: DO I GATHER CORRECTLY FROM YOUR EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO MOVEMENT OF EITHER SHIPS OR PLANES OR MEN OTHER THAN WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION?

A: THE QUESTION I ANSWERED WAS ON NEW ALERTS. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF AIRPLANES, BACK AND FORTH, I WOULDN'T WANT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION YES, FLAT OUT.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT PUT ASIDE AIRPLANES, THERE ARE NO OTHER SHIPS OR MARINES BEING MOVED DOWN TOWARD THAT AREA?

A: NONE THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: SIR, DO YOU HAVE A ROUND NUMBER ON THE NUMBER OF SHIPS? PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS  
IS IT THIRTY, IT'S HARD TO ADD THEM UP?

A: MY ADDING CAME TO AROUND 40 ADDING UP THE FIGURES I JUST GAVE YOU. MAY BE A LITTLE MORE.

Q: COULD YOU PROVIDE US AN INTERPRETATION OF THE WAR POWERS ACT AS TO THE LIMITATIONS THAT EXIST OR THAT ARE ACCEPTED BY THE PENTAGON ON THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE TO PROTECT AN EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS? SPECIFICALLY, AS TO WHAT THE LIMITATIONS ARE ON EXCALATION; HOW FAR CAN THE PRESIDENT GO IN SUPPORTING, WITH MILITARY FORCE, SUCH AN EVACUATION?

A: YOU HEARD THE PRESIDENT THE OTHER NIGHT. I DON'T THINK THAT'S AN ANSWERABLE QUESTION. I THINK YOU'D HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE.

Q: SOMEBODY HAS TO HAVE SOME IDEA. . . .

A: THIS WOULD BE A COMMAND DECISION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WHEN THE TIME COMES.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONE WHO DECIDES HOW FAR HE CAN GO IN ESCALATING?

A: I AM SURE HE CONSULTS BEFORE HE DECIDES, BUT THAT IS HIS DECISION.

Q: AND AS FAR AS YOU KNOW THERE IS NO LIMITATION?

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A: WE'VE GOT TO APPLY THE RULE OF REASON.

Q: PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS AS TO WHAT RESOURCES YOU HAVE AVAILABLE?

A: I DON'T REALLY THINK WE COULD ANSWER THE QUESTION. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE OTHER NIGHT THE WAR POWERS ACT DOES PERMIT HIM TO TAKE, I FORGET WHAT HIS WORD WAS. . . .

Q: SOMETHING ON PRECISE LIMITATIONS -- HE DIDN'T MAKE IT VERY CLEAR.

A: I'M NOT VERY CLEAR EITHER. WHY DON'T I TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND SEE IF WE CAN GIVE YOU AN ANSWER. FROM A PRACTICAL STAND-

POINT, I THINK EVERYONE HAS AGREED THAT HE HAS THE POWERS TO USE SOME MILITARY FORCE.

Q: THERE'S NO RESTRICTION THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE USE OF B-52 BOMBERS, LET'S SAY?

A: I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE A CASE WHERE THEY'D DO THAT FROM A REALISTIC STANDPOINT. LET ME TAKE YOUR QUESTION.

Q: IN THE CASE THAT MAY ARISE AND APPEARS TO BE THE MOST IMMINENT CASE, SUPPOSE THE SA-2 FIRED ON AMERICAN EVACUATION PLANES AND HIT THEM, WOULDN'T THE PRESIDENT HAVE THE POWER TO ORDER RETALIATION STRIKES AGAINST THOSE MISSILE SITES?

PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS

A: IF AN ACTUAL EVACUATION WAS TAKING PLACE, YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW IS NOT CALLED AN EVACUATION, THIS IS A THINNING OUT. WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE END IN PHNOM PENH IS AN EXAMPLE OF EVACUATION, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: THAT STILL HAS TO COME, I PRESUME.

A: RIGHT. THIS IS WHAT I ASSUME THAT LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK) IS TALKING ABOUT.

Q: SUPPOSE THOSE PLANES OR HELICOPTERS ARE FIRED ON AND HIT; SOME KNOCKED DOWN, WOULD WE RETALIATE WITH AIRSTRIKES AGAINST MISSILES?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION, TOO. MY OWN FEELING IS THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO; THAT WOULD BE A LEGITIMATE THING TO DO, BUT THAT'S JUST ME TALKING.

Q: YOU WOULD HAVE TO DEFINE WHETHER THE PLANES ARE CARRYING AMERICANS OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

A: THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ARE SOME TRICKY RAMIFICATIONS, LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM AS TO THE THREAT TO SAIGON?

A: AS WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY, IT'S DOWN TOWARDS THE LIGHTER

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END OF THE SCALE OF LIGHT-MODERATE-HEAVY. THERE'S ACTUALLY VERY LITTLE CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY. THERE IS PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR, ACTUALLY, IN THE NUMBER OF DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH-WEST -- VERY LITTLE FROM THE EAST AT THIS POINT -- AND SOME FROM THE NORTHWEST, BUT IT ISN'T BIG AT THIS STAGE. AS WE SAID YESTERDAY, WHAT'S COMING NEXT WE HAVE YET TO SEE.

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FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY MGEN SIDLE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: MR. GREENBERG, DIRECTOR OF MANPOWER PROGRAMS (OASD-M&RA) IS BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH IS CONDUCTING HEARINGS ON VOCATIONAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND CAREER EDUCATION.

2. NO SPEECHES TODAY.

3. THERE WAS A REPORT THAT THERE WOULD BE A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00, THAT IS TOTALLY UNTRUE, UNFOUNDED WITHOUT BASIS. FEDERATION OF AMERICAN&ARAB ORGANIZATIONS IS MEETING WITH MR. ELLSWORTH, ASD(ISA) IN A CLOSED SESSION AT 3:00 PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS BUT THERE'S NO PRESS CONFERENCE INVOLVED.

Q: WHAT'S THE SUBJECT?

A: WHAT THE FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES WANT TO DISCUSS WITH DOD WAS NOT SPECIFIED.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FEDERATION, IS IT PRIVATE OR QUASI-OFFICIALS?

A: I THINK IT'S MORE PRIVATE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WE WEREN'T ABLE TO FIND OUT TOO MUCH ABOUT IT BUT THERE ARE SOME AMERICAN ARABS UNOFFICIAL GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY APPARENTLY HAVE FORMED INTO A FEDERATION. I DON'T KNOW HOW OLD IT IS BUT THEY DID WRITE IN AND ASK TO TALK WITH A KNOWLEDGEABLE DEFENSE OFFICIAL AND MR. ELLSWORTH AGREED TO TALK TO THEM; SUBJECTS ARE UNKNOWN. I HAD BREAKFAST WITH MR. ELLSWORTH AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO ASK HIM.

4. RELEASE ON MONTHLY STRENGTH FIGURES FOR MARCH.

5. RELEASE ON THE NEW 8 INCH MAJOR CALIBRE LIGHTWEIGHT GUN OF THE NAVY WHICH HAS BEEN FIRED SUCCESSFULLY IN ITS INITIAL TESTS. THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT FOR SOME YEARS AND IT'S DESIGNED TO REPLACE THE 5 INCH GUNS THAT ARE PRESENTLY ON DESTROYERS. IT'S ACTUALLY LIGHTER AND TAKES LESS SHIPBOARD PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS

SPACE THAN THE OLD 8 INCH GUN THAT WAS ON CRUISERS. IT'S APPARENTLY A GREAT WEAPON. IT'S AUTOMATIC AND PERMITS A SINGLE

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OPERATOR TO LOAD AND FIRE PROJECTILES.

Q: IT'S NOT LASER GUIDED?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q: ARE THE SAM-2S NOW WITHIN RANGE OF TAN SON NHUT?

A: NOT THAT WE COULD DETERMINE YET. I HATE TO SAY NO, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY ARE. THAT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME AS YOU WELL KNOW.

Q: HAVE ANY OF THE PLANES COME UNDER EITHER MISSILE OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE?

A: NO PLANES HAVE COME UNDER MISSILE FIRE. WE HAVE FOUR REPORTS OF PLANES POSSIBLY COMING UNDER SOME KIND OF GROUND FIRE. I BROUGHT ONE ALONG AND IT'S VERY HAZY. FOR INSTANCE, AND THIS IS TYPICAL, THE PILOT WHILE TURNING TO MAKE HIS APPROACH TO TAN SON NHUT, HE WAS QUITE AWAYS OUT STILL, DETECTED CIRCULAR WHITE MUZZLE FLASHES WHICH APPEARED TO BE FIRED DIRECTLY AT THE AIRCRAFT, BUT NO TRACES OR AIR BURSTS SHOWED UP -- WHICH AS YOU CAN SEE MAKES THIS A VERY HAZY REPORT. THE PEOPLE ON THE SCENE ARE CONVINCED THAT NONE HAVE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS ACTUALLY BEEN FIRED AT YET.

Q: ARE THE PLANES FOLLOWING ANY SPECIAL TACTICS GOING IN AND OUT OF THE AIRPORT?

A: I DON'T KNOW, I KNOW THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT THEY WERE ANYWAY.

Q: WHY NOT?

A: SURELY YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q: NO, I DON'T.

A: IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL A GUY WHO IS MAY BE GOING TO SHOOT AT YOU HOW YOU'RE GOING TO COME INTO THE AIRPORT, THAT'S A VERY HELPFUL THING TO HIM.

Q: ARE THESE WHITE PUFFS SIMILAR TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE?

A: THERE ARE NO PUFFS.

Q: WHAT'D YOU SAY?

A: HE SAW FLASHES FROM THE WEAPONS.

Q: THERE WERE NO HITS THOUGH.

A: AS I SAY, NO HITS, NO TRACERS, NO AIRBURSTS.

Q: DID SOME PILOTS REPORT TRACER BULLETS?

A: SOME OF THEM REPORTED TRACERS BUT ON FURTHER QUESTIONING IT WAS DETERMINED THEY WEREN'T NECESSARILY COMING AT THEM. YOU PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4766 UNCLAS KNOW IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TELL UP IN THE AIR IF YOU SEE A TRACER GOING LIKE THIS -- YOU KNOW IT IS GOING TO MISS YOU BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S AIMED AT YOU.

Q: DID ANYONE OF THOSE PILOTS HEAR TYPICAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT TYPE EXPLOSIONS?

A: WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF THAT.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION OF DAMAGE, IN OTHER WORDS, FRAGMENTS?

A: NO, NOT A ONE. WE'RE TREATING THIS WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION AT THIS POINT. WE DON'T WANT TO SAY THEY WEREN'T SHOT

AT BUT WE SURE DON'T HAVE ANY HARD PROOF THAT THEY WERE.

Q: NONE OF THE FOUR REPORT ANY AIRBURSTS?

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: SOME OF THE FOUR SAW TRACERS?

A: YES.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY THE SAM-2S ARE NOT WITHIN RANGE DOES THIS MEAN NONE HAVE BEEN FIRED AT INCOMING PLANES?

A: I'M SAYING WE DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE. NONE HAVE BEEN FIRED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE DOUBT THAT THEY COULD BE WITHIN RANGE IF THEY WANTED TO BE?  
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A: I WOULD SAY THEY CERTAINLY COULD BE. NEEDLES TO SAY, EVERYONE'S LOOKING.

Q: HOW MANY EVACUATIONS FLIGHTS WERE CONDUCTED THERE, FOR EXAMPLE, TODAY SAIGON TIME?

A: WE HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE KEEPING TRACK OF THAT SINCE STATE IS SUPPOSED TO REPORT ON THIS. NOT ALL OF THE FLIGHTS ARE ACTUALLY AIR FORCE PLANES. YOU KNOW THERE'RE SOME CHARTERS. LET ME TRY TO GET AN ANSWER ON THAT I SHOULD THINK WE'D BE ABLE TO GET ONE.

Q: IS IT ALSO CORRECT THAT SOME OF THE FLIGHTS ARE NOW GOING TO GUAM?

A: YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: WHY IS THAT?

A: STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT GUAM WAS GOING TO REPLACE CLARK AS THE CENTRAL HANDLING POINT AT LEAST FOR VIETNAMESE. NOW THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SOME STILL WON'T GO TO CLARK. THE CENTRAL, THE BASIC POINT, WILL BE GUAM.

Q: WHAT DO YOU MEAN VIETNAMESE; THAT'S ALL WE'RE EVACUATING ISN'T IT?

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A: WE'RE EVACUATING AMERICANS TOO.

Q: I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. THE AMERICANS MIGHT COME INTO CLARK BUT THE VIETNAMESE WILL GO TO GUAM.

Q: ARE THERE STILL AMERICANS LEAVING ON THEIR OWN, PAYING THEIR OWN WAY, USING COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS?

A: THERE MUST BE BUT I'LL CHECK THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANY REPORT ON THAT. THEY'RE KEEPING TRACK OF EVERYBODY NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE SOME AMERICANS WHO MIGHT HAVE LEFT ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS OUT OF SAIGON AND THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN ANY TOTALS THAT ARE AVAILABLE?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION. IF YOU ASKED ME LAST WEEK, I KNOW LAST WEEK THAT WAS TRUE. THEY WERE KEEPING TRACK OF THEM SO I PRESUME THEY'RE STILL KEEPING TRACK OF THEM BUT I DON'T  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4767 UNCLAS

KNOW THAT ANY ARE GOING THAT WASY NOW.

Q: SHOULDN'T ALL NON-ESSENTIAL AMERICANS BE OUT BY NOW?

A: I WOULD THINK SO, WE'RE GETTING DOWN.

Q: ALL THAT'S GOING OUT NOW IS VIETNAMESE?

A: NO, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID YES TO ALL, THEY'RE GETTING DOWN TO MORE ESSENTIAL AS THEY THIN OUT.

Q: BUT THE HEAVY MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LEAVING ARE NOW VIETNAMESE?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT'S CORRECT, BUT I WOULD ASK YOU TO PLEASE ASK YOUR REFUGEE QUESTIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE ONLY THE EXECUTIVE AGENT ON THIS, I'M NOT IN A POSITION REALLY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

Q: THERE'S ONE ALLIED QUESTION, WHAT ARE YOU DOING LOGISTICALLY? YOU CAN'T SUDDENLY DUMP SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE ON AN ISLAND LIKE GUAM WITHOUT PREPARING TENTS AND MAKING SURE FOOD IS IN THERE AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND THE REST OF IT.

A: OF COURSE THIS ISN'T ALL THAT SUDDEN. IN OTHER WORDS, THE COMMANDER ON GUAM, ADMIRAL MORRISON, WAS INFORMED THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN AND HE HAS THE CAPABILITY TO HANDLE SEVERAL THOUSAND AS FAR AS HOUSING IS CONCERNED RIGHT OFF THE BAT. OBVIOUSLY,  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4767 UNCLAS  
IF THE NUMBER GETS LARGE, HE WILL HAVE TO GO INTO TENTS AND I'M SURE THEY CAN FLY IN THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES AND SO FORTH.

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Q: ARE WE NOW LOADING SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON THOSE FIVE COMMERCIAL SHIPS THAT ARE IN PORT NEAR SAIGON?

A: MY INFORMATION IS WE'RE NOT LOADING ANYONE ON THOSE SHIPS.

Q: ARE THERE FIVE OR FOUR?

A: THERE ARE FOUR THERE; FIVE YESTERDAY.

Q: DID ONE LEAVE WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON IT?

A: ONE LEFT EMPTY AS I UNDERSTAND IT. IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY VIETNAMESE ON IT. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR?

A: AS I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, IT GETS INTO OUR MANY CONTINGENCY PLANS AND IT'S 'IN CASE' PROPOSITION.

Q: TO EVACUATE WHO?

A: IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED LATER. YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION AS EASILY AS I CAN. IT'S ALL GOING TO DEPEND ON THE SITUATION.

Q: DOES THAT INCLUDE SOME 100,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OUT OF THERE? IS THE ARMADA THERE TO TAKE OUT 100,000?

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A: THE ARMADA IS THERE TO DO WHAT IT'S TOLD TO DO WHEN THE TIME COMES AND I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WILL BE WHAT IT DOES OR NOT.

Q: CAN WE FIND OUT WHAT THIS ARMADA CONSISTS OF?

A: I UNDERSTOOD WE GAVE THAT TO YOU YESTERDAY. THERE ARE FIVE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND SEVEN SHIPS WITH PHIBRON V. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS DEPLOYED IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA IS ABOUT A DOZEN. HOW MANY MSC SHIPS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE? TEN MSC PLUS ABOUT A DOZEN FOREIGN AND THERE ARE SEVERAL TUGS AND NUMEROUS BARGES. I GAVE YOU THE COMMERCIAL SHIPS, THAT'S ABOUT A DOZEN. THERE ARE MORE THAN A DOZEN DESTROYERS.

Q: HOW ABOUT FIFTEEN?

A: IF YOU WANT TO SAY FIFTEEN, THAT WOULD BE REASONABLY CLOSE.

Q: WHAT'S THE POINT IN TELLING US THE NUMBER OF CARRIERS BUT NOT THE DESTROYERS.

A: YOU CAN USE AS A RULE OF THUMB, AS YOU KNOW, THE CARRIER ALWAYS TAKES TWO OR THREE DESTROYERS WITH THEM.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE LONG BEACH?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT.

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Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A TOTAL NUMBER OF THE MARINES?

A: AGAIN I CAN'T GIVE YOU A FIRM FIGURE. PHIBRON'S NORMALLY CARRY A BATTALION LANDING TEAM WHICH VARY IN SIZE BUT IF YOU FIGURE 800 TO 1,000, THAT'S THE NORMAL FIGURE. SO THIS PHIBRON V HAS EMBARKED A MARINE BATTALION LANDING TEAM.

Q: WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

A: OKINAWA.

Q: YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE US THE TYPES IN THE PHIBRON SO WE COULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY COULD GO UP ON THE BEACH?

A: TWO LSTS: TWO LSDS; AN LKA AND TWO LPDS.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE NOW IN YOUR DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN SAIGON?

A: ABOUT 150, BUT I'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: WHY ARE THOSE TRANSPORT SHIPS NEAR SAIGON?

A: I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THEM. I TOLD YOU THAT THEY ARE THERE IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED THIS WHOLE FLEET IS THERE TO BE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

Q: NOW THAT MOST OF THE AMERICANS ARE THERE EXCEPT TO EVACUATE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

A: YOU CAN DRAW THAT CONCLUSION. I'M JUST NOT GOING TO PREDICT WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE USED FOR.

Q: WHAT IS THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF ALL THE SHIPS? HOW MANY HUMAN BEINGS CAN THAT FLEET TAKE OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION. IT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW FAR IT'S GOING, OK. IN OTHER WORDS IF YOU ARE GOING TO MOVE A SHIP FROM VUNG TAU OR SAIGON TO THE PHILIPPINES YOU COULD TAKE A CONSIDERABLY LARGER NUMBER THAN IF YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE THEM 1500 TO 2,000 MILES.

Q: HOW MANY TRANSPORT SHIPS FOR HUMAN BEINGS IN THIS WHOLE FLEET DO YOU HAVE?

A: WE CAN'T USE THAT AS A FIGURE BECAUSE IN OUR PREVIOUS REFUGEE EFFORTS WE USED CARGO SHIPS AS WELL AS TRANSPORTS.

Q: FOR THIS PURPOSE?

A: ALL OF THESE SHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE IF WE WANT TO USE THEM FOR IT.

Q: OBVIOUSLY, YOU COULD TAKE OUT ABOUT 100,000 PEOPLE.

A: I WOULD SAY THAT WOULD BE EASY.

Q: DO YOU AHE ANYTHING ON HELICOPTERS AND MARINES ABOARD THE MIDWAY?

A: I DON T HAVE ANYTING ABOUT MARINES; THE MIDWAY DOES HAVE

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HELICOPTERS ABOARD. I KNOW OF NO MARINE MOVEMENT TO THE MIDWAY.

Q: HOW MANY HELICOPTERS?

A: I CAN'T SAY.

Q: WHAT KIND OF HELICOPTERS?

A: LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: ANYMORE MARINE MOVEMENTS FROM HAWAII TO OKINAWA?

A: NO.

Q: OR FROM THE WEST COAST TO HAWAII?

A: NO MOVEMENTS OF THAT TYPE GOING ON.

Q: THE PLANES ON THE CARRIER, DO THEY HAVE THE DEVICES THAT SEEK OUT MISSILES AND AUTOMATICALLY FIRE THE ROCKET TO ATTACK MISSILE SITES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: HOW MANY HELICOPTERS, ROUND OR PRECISE FIGURE, ARE AVAILABLE ON THESE CARRIERS FOR EVACUATION PURPOSES?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION. I KNOW WE CAN GIVE YOU A ROUND FIGURE.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE A SORT OF GENERAL IDEA OF THEIR CAPACITY IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL? THE REASON FOR MY QUESTION IS TO DETERMINE IF IT'S GOING TO TAKE ONE 'FELL SWOOP' OR WHAT?

A: IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE 'FELL SWOOP'. BUT AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY, WE CAN DO THAT DEPENDING ON THE POSITION. THAT'S AN EASY DAY'S JOB. YOU COULD IT IT LESS THAN A DAY IF ITS ORGANIZED AND NOBODY IS STOPPING YOU.

Q: YOU CONSIDER IT ONE OPERATION?

A: IT WOULD BE ONE OPERATION, SAME AS THE PHNOM PENH.

Q: WAS IT THE PLAN TO STAGE OUT OF VUNG TAU IF YOU HAVE TO USE HELICOPTERS?

A: THAT IS ONE OF THE CONTINGENCIES, THERE ARE A NUMBER. AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE GREAT VARIETY INVOLVED, THAT OBVIOUSLY IS A POSSIBILITY BUT IT'S NOT REQUIRED.

Q: THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE EVACUATION LONG HAUL AND SHORT HAUL REALLY ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT, IF YOU WANT TO GET PEOPLE OUT.

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A: IT IS ON SHIPS.

Q: NOT IF YOU WANT THE PEOPLE OUT, WE CAN GET THEM OUT.

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A: NOW, YOU'RE ASSUMING SOME SORT OF A SYSTEM WHEREBY THEY CAN GET ON BOARD, OH YES.

Q: IS THERE ANY PROBLEM IN THE PHILIPPINES ABOUT BRINGING MORE PEOPLE IN, IS THERE A LACK OF CAPACITY FOR ADDITIONAL STAGING?

A: CLARK IS NOT REALLY A GOOD PLACE FOR ANY KIND OF A MASSIVE OPERATION OF THAT TYPE. THEY CAN HANDLE A COUPLE OF THOUSAND. THAT WAS ONE OF THE MAIN TRANSSHIPMENT POINTS FOR TROOPS BUT THEY CLOG UP PRETTY FAST.

Q: DIDN'T THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ALSO OBJECT TO THAT?

A: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, I'D HAVE TO CHECK THAT. MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK STATE.

Q: CAN THE F-14S BE USED OPERATIONALLY AS A COVER IN ASSISTING THE EVACUATION?

A: YES, SURELY, SURELY.

Q: WE WERE DOWN TO 1,500 YESTERDAY, IS THAT 1,500 AND HOLDING?

A: AGAIN, I'LL REFER YOU TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR AN PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS  
ACCURATE FIGURE ON THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF AMERICANS ARE STILL COMING OUT?

A: YES, I CAN SAY THAT, THAT'S A FACT.

Q: ARE THERE ANY MOVEMENTS OF B-52S TOWARD GUAM?

A: I WOULDN'T COMMENT ON THAT ANYWAY.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY INCREASE IN THE B-52 ON GUAM?

A: I KNOW OF NO WORLDWIDE CHANGE IN ANY B-52 SETUP.

Q: ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PLANES IN THAILAND?

A: AGAIN, THAT'S THE SORT OF THING I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON.

Q: HAVE ANY MARINES IN THE UNITED STATES OR HAWAII BEEN ALERTED FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS?

A: NO ORDERS HAVE GONE OUT OF THIS BUILDING TO ALERT ANYBODY FOR ANYTHING.

Q: AFP REPORTED FROM SAIGON TODAY, THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE -- THIS IS SKETCHY -- IS USING A SORT OF BOMB NOW WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS A COMPRESSION BOMB WHICH CREATES A VACUUM WHICH SUFFOCATES PEOPLE.

A: I SAW THAT. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY BOMB LIKE THAT, THE REPORT I SAW CALLED IT AN 'ULTRALETHAL, ASPHIXIATION BOMB' AND THAT'S PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4768 UNCLAS

A NEW ONE ON ME. AS FAR AS I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN OUR INVENTORY, SO I VIEWED THAT REPORT WITH SOME DOUBT.

Q: NAPALM WILL HAVE THAT EFFECT?

A: OF COURSE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE A NEW ULTRALETHAL ASPHIXIATED BOMB.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE ARMY OR THE AIR FORCE HAVE DEVELOPED A WEAPON THAT SORT OF SUCKS THE OXYGEN OUT OF AN AREA.

A: WE HAD A BOMB A WHILE BACK THAT WAS -- AS A SIDE EFFECT DID SUCK SOME OXYGEN -- NOT ENOUGH TO BE USED AS A WEAPON

ITSELF -- BUT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE EXPLOSION OF OTHER BOMBS. THAT'S NOT NEW. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF IT MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION ON THAT.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

A: NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: COULD NAPALM ASPHIXIATE?

A: IF THEY MEAN NAPALM, EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT NAPALM IS -- THEY HAVE NAPALM.

Q: IF THEY HAD FOUND A CORPSE THAT WAS ASPHIXIATED AND NOT BURNED, COULD NAPALM HAVE DONE THAT?

A: YES, BUT THAT'S NOT A NEW ULTRALETHAL ASPHIXIATION BOMB.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED A \$1.1 MILLION 'PAMER FUND' TO FIND SOME WAY OF TAKING CARE OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS NOW THAT THEY ARE BEING STRIPPED OF THEIR ENLISTED AIDES?

A: AS YOU PHRASE THE QUESTION, I'M SURE THE ANSWER IS NO BECAUSE WE HAVE NO FUNDS EARMARKED TO PAMPER GENERALS. HAVING BEEN KEEPING A 17-ROOM HOUSE MYSELF WITHOUT ANY ASSISTANCE, I CAN SEE THE NEED FOR SUCH A FUND. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE MONEY FIGURE. THERE IS A STUDY GOING ON TO SEE IF THERE ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THE 55-YEAR OLD HOUSEWIFE WHO HAS TO KEEP A 17-ROOM HOUSE WITHOUT MAKING HER HUSBAND COME HOME FROM WORK TO HELP HER -- THERE'S A STUDY ON THAT -- I HAVEN'T HEARD A DOLLAR FIGURE BUT LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: SOMETIME AGO, I ASKED WHY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WAS CLOSING DOWN THE FLAG OFFICERS DINING ROOM; THAT WAS A SELF-SUPPORTING OPERATION? YOU NEVER GAVE US AN ANSWER.

A: IT WAS NOT SELF-SUPPORTING. HOWEVER, LET ME BRING YOU

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UP TO DATE ON THAT. I HAVEN'T GIVEN YOU AN ANSWER BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T GOT IT RESOLVED YET. I HAVE MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE AND THEY HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE RATIONALE ON WHY THEY CLOSED IT DOWN WHICH I JUST RECEIVED MONDAY AND I'M STUDYING IT AT THE MOMENT TO SEE IF WE CONCUR. YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT, THERE ISN'T ANY PLACE TO GO UNLESS THEY DO SOMETHING.

Q: ARE YOU GOING TO CLARIFY THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PROFITS THAT THEY DERIVE FROM THE VARIOUS CONCESSIONS?

A: I'LL CHECK THAT. I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHER THAN THAT. AS YOU KNOW, THE WELFARE FUND BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVE NOT CHECKED THAT.

Q: IS THAT JUSTIFIABLE?

A: THAT MAY BE A MATTER OF OPINION.

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS

Q: THE FACT THAT IT WENT ON A LONG TIME, DOESN'T JUSTIFY IT.

A: NO, I AGREE WITH THAT. JUST BECAUSE IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR GRANDFATHERS, DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US.

Q: HOW MANY MARINES DO WE HAVE ON OKINAWA NOW?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: IT WOULD BE CORRECT TO SAY THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER WITH THIS FORCE IS 5,000?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO NUMBERS, BUT YOU'RE ALLOWED TO SPECULATE.

Q: WHEN PHIBRON WENT OUT TO THE PACIFIC, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO ROTATE WITH EXISTING PHIBRON FORCES? HAS IT?

A: NO, THEY'RE BOTH THERE.

Q: IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

A: THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA, YES.

Q: THAT'S ANOTHER BLT THEN?

A: NO, THAT'S THE ONE WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT -- SAME ONE -- NOT ANOTHER ONE. THERE'S NO ADDITIONAL ONE. THE ONLY RECENT ADDITION IS THE ONE I JUST MENTIONED; PICKED UP BY PHIBRON V.

Q: I'M CONFUSED AS TO WHAT THE EXISTING PHIBRON WAS.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS

A: YOU'LL RECALL THE OKINAWA TASK FORCE OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, HAD A MARINE BLT, THAT WAS ASSOCIATED WITH

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THE PHIBRON. THAT'S THE NORMAL WAY THESE FELLOWS ARE USED. THE ONLY THING WE DID DIFFERENTLY ON THIS ONE, IS THAT WE HAD THOSE 700 THAT WE MOVED DOWN FOR THE EVACUATION WITH THE BLUE RIDGE GROUP.

Q: ON THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE BOMBING, THEY DO USE AMERICAN SUPPLIED NAPALM, DON'T THEY?

A: THEY HAVE THAT.

Q: DO I GATHER CORRECTLY FROM YOUR EARLIER STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO MOVEMENT OF EITHER SHIPS OR PLANES OR MEN OTHER THAN WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION?

A: THE QUESTION I ANSWERED WAS ON NEW ALERTS. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A CONTINUING MOVEMENT OF AIRPLANES, BACK AND FORTH, I WOULDN'T WANT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION YES, FLAT OUT.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT PUT ASIDE AIRPLANES, THERE ARE NO OTHER SHIPS OR MARINES BEING MOVED DOWN TOWARD THAT AREA?

A: NONE THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: SIR, DO YOU HAVE A ROUND NUMBER ON THE NUMBER OF SHIPS? PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS  
IS IT THIRTY, IT'S HARD TO ADD THEM UP?

A: MY ADDING CAME TO AROUND 40 ADDING UP THE FIGURES I JUST GAVE YOU. MAY BE A LITTLE MORE.

Q: COULD YOU PROVIDE US AN INTERPRETATION OF THE WAR POWERS ACT AS TO THE LIMITATIONS THAT EXIST OR THAT ARE ACCEPTED BY THE PENTAGON ON THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE TO PROTECT AN EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS? SPECIFICALLY, AS TO WHAT THE LIMITATIONS ARE ON EXCALATION; HOW FAR CAN THE PRESIDENT GO IN SUPPORTING, WITH MILITARY FORCE, SUCH AN EVACUATION?

A: YOU HEARD THE PRESIDENT THE OTHER NIGHT. I DON'T THINK THAT'S AN ANSWERABLE QUESTION. I THINK YOU'D HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE.

Q: SOMEBODY HAS TO HAVE SOME IDEA. . . .

A: THIS WOULD BE A COMMAND DECISION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WHEN THE TIME COMES.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONE WHO DECIDES HOW FAR HE CAN GO IN ESCALATING?

A: I AM SURE HE CONSULTS BEFORE HE DECIDES, BUT THAT IS HIS DECISION.

Q: AND AS FAR AS YOU KNOW THERE IS NO LIMITATION? PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4769 UNCLAS

A: WE'VE GOT TO APPLY THE RULE OF REASON.

Q: PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS AS TO WHAT RESOURCES YOU HAVE AVAILABLE?

A: I DON'T REALLY THINK WE COULD ANSWER THE QUESTION. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE OTHER NIGHT THE WAR POWERS ACT DOES PERMIT HIM TO TAKE, I FORGET WHAT HIS WORD WAS. . . .

Q: SOMETHING ON PRECISE LIMITATIONS -- HE DIDN'T MAKE IT VERY CLEAR.

A: I'M NOT VERY CLEAR EITHER. WHY DON'T I TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND SEE IF WE CAN GIVE YOU AN ANSWER. FROM A PRACTICAL STAND-

POINT, I THINK EVERYONE HAS AGREED THAT HE HAS THE POWERS TO USE SOME MILITARY FORCE.

Q: THERE'S NO RESTRICTION THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE USE OF B-52 BOMBERS, LET'S SAY?

A: I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE A CASE WHERE THEY'D DO THAT FROM A REALISTIC STANDPOINT. LET ME TAKE YOUR QUESTION.

Q: IN THE CASE THAT MAY ARISE AND APPEARS TO BE THE MOST IMMINENT CASE, SUPPOSE THE SA-2 FIRED ON AMERICAN EVACUATION PLANES AND HIT THEM, WOULDN'T THE PRESIDENT HAVE THE POWER TO ORDER RETALIATION STRIKES AGAINST THOSE MISSILE SITES?

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A: IF AN ACTUAL EVACUATION WAS TAKING PLACE, YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW IS NOT CALLED AN EVACUATION, THIS IS A THINNING OUT. WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE END IN PHNOM PENH IS AN EXAMPLE OF EVACUATION, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: THAT STILL HAS TO COME, I PRESUME.

A: RIGHT. THIS IS WHAT I ASSUME THAT LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK) IS TALKING ABOUT.

Q: SUPPOSE THOSE PLANES OR HELICOPTERS ARE FIRED ON AND HIT; SOME KNOCKED DOWN, WOULD WE RETALIATE WITH AIRSTRIKES AGAINST MISSILES?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION, TOO. MY OWN FEELING IS THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO; THAT WOULD BE A LEGITIMATE THING TO DO, BUT THAT'S JUST ME TALKING.

Q: YOU WOULD HAVE TO DEFINE WHETHER THE PLANES ARE CARRYING AMERICANS OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

A: THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ARE SOME TRICKY RAMIFICATIONS, LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US THE PRESENT STAGE OF THE FIGHTING IN VIETNAM AS TO THE THREAT TO SAIGON?

A: AS WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY, IT'S DOWN TOWARDS THE LIGHTER

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END OF THE SCALE OF LIGHT-MODERATE-HEAVY. THERE'S ACTUALLY VERY LITTLE CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY. THERE IS PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR, ACTUALLY, IN THE NUMBER OF DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH-WEST -- VERY LITTLE FROM THE EAST AT THIS POINT -- AND SOME FROM THE NORTHWEST, BUT IT ISN'T BIG AT THIS STAGE. AS WE SAID YESTERDAY, WHAT'S COMING NEXT WE HAVE YET TO SEE.

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SECTION 1 OF 5

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: DOD BRIEFING BY MGEN SIDLE, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: DR. JOHN J. BENNETT, ACTING ASD(I&L), IN OPEN SESSION BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE PROCUREMENT POLICY. THERE WILL BE SOME ARMY WITNESSES THIS AFTERNOON.

2. SPEECHES: ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY, CNO, AND GENERAL CUSHMAN, MARINE COMMANDANT, SPEAKS BEFORE NAVY LEAGUE CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

3. THE LOADING FOR A ROUTINE AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING EXERCISE WILL BEGIN TOMORROW IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. THIS THING'S PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4895 UNCLAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MANY MONTHS. IT HAS NO CONNECTION WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THESE EXERCISES GO ON DOWN THERE OFF SAN DIEGO QUITE OFTEN. THE TROOPS WILL START LOADING ABOARD THE TRANSPORTS TOMORROW, APRIL 25. SO WHEN YOU START GETTING STORIES ABOUT THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION BEING EMBARKED FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, THEY WILL NOT BE TRUE. THEY ARE COMING OUT OF CAMP PENDLETON AND THE EXERCISE WILL INVOLVE ABOUT TWO DOZEN SHIPS. IT'LL BE BASICALLY THE FIFTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE OUT OF THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION.

Q: TWO THOUSAND?

A: A BRIGADE-SIZE THAT'LL BE, WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY A REINFORCED REGIMENT, THAT'D BE CLOSER TO 5,000.

Q: WHERE WILL THE EXERCISE TAKE PLACE?

A: OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST.

Q: ARE THEY GOING TO HAVE AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST?

A: THAT'S WHAT THEY NORMALLY DO ; I DIDN'T LOOK UP THE SCENARIO.

Q: IS THIS A TRAINING EXERCISE?

A: IT'S A TRAINING EXERCISE.

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Q: IS IT DESERT TRAINING OR JUST AMPHIBIOUS?

A: NOT DESERT, NO DESERT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME FOR ITP

A: EXERCISE 'BELL BUSTER.' IT WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED ON THE 18TH OF APRIL.

4. WE HAVE THE RECRUITING RESULTS FOR MARCH.

5. WE HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE ARMY'S AFFILIATION PROGRAM WHERE THEY USE A NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADE AND AFFILIATE IT TO A DIVISION. THEN THAT DIVISION MONITORS CLOSELY ITS TRAINING AND ITS READINESS SO THAT IF THE DIVISION SHOULD GO TO WAR, IT'D HAVE THE OPTION OF HAVING AN EXTRA BRIGADE WITH IT. THE DETAILS ARE IN THE RELEASE.

6. YOU ASKED ME YESTERDAY ABOUT THE LIFT CARRYING CAPABILITY OF HELICOPTERS. IT'S INTERESTING TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE SO MANY VARIABLES IT'S HARD TO COME UP WITH A GENERALIZATION BUT HERE'S THE STANDARD: AT A 90-DEGREE TEMPERATURE AND AT SEA LEVEL AND IF THE WINDS AREN'T BAD, YOU CAN PUT A MARINE OR ARMY TROOPER WITH HIS EQUIPMENT -- WHICH WOULD COME TO ABOUT 240 POUNDS, IT WOULD BE LESS FOR OTHERS, THE CH-46 CAN CARRY 16 PASSENGERS UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE CH-53 CAN PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4895 UNCLAS CARRY 37. NOW AS YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THAT IS VARIABLE. OBVIOUSLY, IF YOU DON'T CARRY EQUIPMENT, YOU CAN PUT MORE PEOPLE ON IT, BUT AS YOU GO UP IN THE AIR, YOU HAVE THINNER AIR, YOU CARRY LESS. THE HEAT ALSO HAS AN EFFECT -- 90-DEGREE HAPPENS TO BE A GOOD OPERATING TEMPERATURE FOR THIS AREA THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: JUST AS A MATTER OF HISTORY, DID THE CHOPPER PILOTS IN THE VIETNAM WAR ALWAYS GET OUT AND ASCERTAIN THE STANDARDS BEFORE THEY LIFTED OFF?

A: WE DID PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO SEVERAL OF THESE FACTORS. SOME OF THEM WERE FAIRLY STANDARD SUCH AS IF YOU'RE OPERATING OUT OF PLEIKU YOU KNOW WHAT THE TEMPERATURE IS MOST OF THE TIME ALTHOUGH IT DID VARY SOME THERE. YOU KNOW WHAT THE WINDS WERE, BUT THE CHOPPER PILOTS WERE VERY CAREFUL TO TRY TO AVOID OVERLOADING BECAUSE THAT'S DANGEROUS. THEY DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN THE GUYS THAT ARE RIDING WITH THEM. THEY DO PAY ATTENTION TO THESE FACTORS.

7. YESTERDAY I WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE ULTRA LETHAL ASPHIXIATION BOMB. WE DID HAVE IN 1970 IN VIETNAM AN EXPERIMENTAL BOMB WE CALLED A CBU 55. I'M SURE SOME OF YOU WILL REMEMBER, PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4895 UNCLAS THIS WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE A HIGH PRESSURE EXPLOSION. WHAT YOU DID FIRST WAS CLEAR OUT A LANDING ZONE WITH WHATEVER MEANS YOU WERE GOING TO USE. REMEMBER WE HAD SOME EXTRALARGE BOMBS WE SED FOR THAT, A 'DAISY CUTTER,' I THINK SOME WERE CALLED. THEN YOU PUT IN ONE OF THESE THINGS WHICH CREATED A HIGH-OVER PRESSURE WHICH EXPLODED ANY MINES OR BOOBY TRAPS THAT WERE IN THE LANDING ZONE. THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT STORY OF YESTERDAY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

THIS WEAPON HAD TO BE DROPPED OUT OF A HELICOPTER OR A SLOW-SPEED FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT. IT WAS A CANNISTER WHICH



HAD THREE OTHER CANNISTERS WITHIN. I WON'T GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS BUT WHAT IT DID WAS CREATE A HEAVY EXPLOSION WITH CONSIDERABLE DOWN-PRESSURE AND IT COULD BE THAT'S WHAT THE STORY YESTERDAY WAS TALKING ABOUT. THE CHANCES OF ANY OF THOSE BEING OVER THERE ARE KIND OF SLIM BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THERE WERE A FEW THERE. THEIR SHELF LIFE IS SHORT, BUT AS IN ANYTHING ELSE, SOME OF THEM PROBABLY WOULD STILL WORK. SO WE EXPECT THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF A 500-POUND HIGH-EXPLOSIVE, GENERAL PURPOSE BOMB BUT WITH THE FORCE AIMED INTO THE GROUND AND IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT IF SOME GUY HAPPENED TO BE IN PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4895 UNCLAS THE MIDDLE OF THAT HE COULD BE ASPHIXIATED BECAUSE OF THE DOWN BLAST EFFECT. THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT.

Q: THEY'RE SAYING IN SAIGON THAT THESE PEOPLE COULD BE ASPHIXIATED WITHIN 200 YARDS.

A: I DON'T BELIEVE THE AREA OF EFFECT IS THAT BIG, BUT UNDER CERTAIN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT BE RIGHT. THIS BOMB WAS DESIGNED FOR THE NORMAL SIZE LANDING ZONE WHICH WOULD BE SMALLER THAN 200 YARDS.

Q: ARE THESE STANDARD EXPLOSIVES OR ARE THEY SOME KIND OF FUEL OIL OR GAS OR SOMETHING?

A: WHAT HAPPENS IS THAT THE CANNISTER RUPTURES, DISBURSING AN AEROSOL CLOUD WHICH IS DETONATED AND PROVIDES A BLAST EFFECT EQUIVALENT TO A 500-POUND HIGH-EXPLOSIVE GENERAL PURPOSE BOMB, THE DIFFERENCE BEING THAT THE MAIN BLAST IS DOWN.

Q: IT IS CLUSTER BOMB?

A: IT WAS A CLUSTER BOMB IN THAT IT BREAKS INTO THREE SUB-CANNISTER. IT'S NOT CLUSTER BOMB IN THE SENSE THAT WE TALKED ABOUT BEFORE, BUT IT IS A CLUSTER BOMB.

Q: WHAT IS IN THE AEROSOL, GASOLINE OR. . . .

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT.

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IN 18941/115/75 /ACK

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 250041Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 2444

SECTION 2 OF 5

Q: (INAUDIBLE) EXPLOSION VERSUS LITTLE BOMBLETS GOING OFF?

A: THAT'S THE IDEA.

Q: ONE TIME THEY WERE USING A SORT OF A COMPRESSED GAS THE SAME KIND THAT WAS USED FOR HOUSEHOLD COOKING.

A: THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF EXPERIMENTS. THE BIG PROBLEM THAT DEVELOPED WITH THIS ONE WAS THAT IT WAS SO INACCURATE. ONE WAY OF PLACING IT WAS TO KICK IT OUT THE SIDE OF A HUEY. THAT'S FACTUAL AND YOU'VE GOT TO BE PRETTY GOOD AT THAT. I SUPPOSE WITH ENOUGH PRACTICE YOU COULD GET GOOD AT IT. WE DID NOT USE THOSE TO ANY GREAT EXTENT. IT DID WORK FROM THE STANDPOINT IF YOU COULD GET IT ON THE TARGET IT WOULD DETONATE THE MINES ALL RIGHT.

Q: WERE THESE STOPPED IN THE 1970S?

A: ALL WE DID WAS TEST IT; WE NEVER REALLY USED IT AND PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4896 UNCLAS ACTUALLY IT WAS NEVER TESTED AS AN ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPON BUT OBVIOUSLY IT HAS AN ANTI-PERSONNEL CAPABILITY, BUT NOT VERY GOOD, ACTUALLY. IT'D BE INEFFICIENT FROM THAT STANDPOINT.

Q: WHERE WAS IT TESTED, IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q: WHAT WAS IT TESTED FOR TO CLEAR LANDING AREAS?

A: AS I JUST SAID, I THOUGHT TO GET THE MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS EXPLODED. IT WASN'T USED TO CLEAR THE AREA; YOU HAVE TO USE SOMETHING ELSE.

Q: IT WAS PRETTY EFFICIENT TO EXPLODE MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS IN A SMALL AREA.

A: IF YOU'RE ON A HELICOPTER COMING INTO A LANDING ZONE IT'S REAL COMFORTING TO KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUMP OUT AND LAND ON A MINE.

Q: IT'S TO CLEAR A LANDING ZONE.

A: CLEARING IN OUR TERMINOLOGY IS WHEN YOU KNOCK DOWN THE TREES AND STUFF; IT'S PART OF THE CLEARING PROCESS.

Q: FOR HELICOPTER LANDING?

A: YES, PART OF THE PROCESS, YOU'VE GOT TO KNOCK DOWN THE TREES FIRST, THIS ISN'T ANY GOOD AT THAT.

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Q: WAS IT TESTED IN COMBAT OR WAS IT TESTED IN A QUIET AREA?

A: IT WAS TESTED IN COMBAT; IT WAS TESTED BOTH WAYS.

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Q: THE AIR FORCE SAID THAT THEY BOUGHT SOME OF THESE THINGS.

A: YES, BUT THERE WEREN'T MANY. IT WAS A VERY SMALL PURCHASE AND IT WAS DECIDED IT WASN'T REALLY WORTH IT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO THINK THIS IS WHAT WAS USED THE OTHER DAY?

A: IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN FIND THAT EVEN BEGINS TO MEET THE DESCRIPTION. I FOUND IN LOOKING IT UP THAT SOME PEOPLE USED TO CALL IT IN SLANG -- IT WASN'T THE OFFICIAL NAME -- CALL IT AN ASPHIXIATION BOMB AND A DEPRESSION BOMB WHICH WERE THE WORDS USED SO IT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT'S GOT TO BE IT.

Q: THERE'S A SMALL CHANCE THAT THEY HAVE THESE THINGS. THAT'S THE WORD YOU USED, 'SMALL CHANCE?'

A: NO, WE KNOW THERE'RE SOME THERE. NOBODY KNOWS HOW MANY. THERE CAN'T BE VERY MANY, AND THE SHELF LIFE IS CONSIDERED SHORT. THE CHANCES ARE THAT MOST OF THEM WOULDN'T WORK. THIS IS REALLY NOT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IS WHAT I'M SAYING.

Q: WHAT'S THE CBU DESIGNATION STAND FOR?

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4896 UNCLAS

A: THAT'S THE CLUSTER BOMB. IT'S A BOMB THAT BREAKS INTO THREE PARTS. MOST CLUSTER BOMBS, AS YOU KNOW, BREAK INTO MANY MORE PARTS THAN THAT, BUT DON'T ASK ME WHY THEY NAMED IT THAT. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE FIGHTING SITUATION IN VIETNAM?

A: LET'S GET INTO THAT A LITTLE BIT. THE STANDARD QUESTION YOU'VE BEEN ASKING ME IS ABOUT SA-2S. WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD PLACE THEM INSIDE THE 20 MILE RADIUS I MENTIONED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NOW A GREAT NUMBER HERE AND THERE OF ENEMY TROOPS WITHIN 20 MILES.

Q: TWENTY MILES OF WHERE?

A: TWENTY MILES OF TAN SON NHUT.

Q: YOU SAID A GREAT NUMBER?

A: I DON'T HAVE A NUMBER BUT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PLACES WHERE THE ENEMY IS ESTIMATED TO BE WHICH WOULD BE INSIDE A CIRCLE IF YOU DREW A 20-MILE CIRCLE AROUND TAN SON NHUT.

Q: BUT NO SA-2S?

A: NO INDICATION OF THAT.

Q: COULD WE SAY THOUSANDS OF TROOPS WITHIN THE 20 MILE CIRCLE?

A: I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY FIGURES ON IT; I GUESS THAT WOULD  
PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4896 UNCLAS

BE ALL RIGHT BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW. I CAN'T CONFIRM IT.

Q: WHAT AAA WEAPONS DO THEY HAVE WITHIN THAT CIRCLE?

A: WE ACTUALLY HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY BUT THEY HAVE WITH THEM THE 57S AND THE 37S. WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY HAVE THE SA-7S BUT WE'RE QUITE CONFIDENT THEY DO.

Q: IS THE 37 RADAR GUIDED?

A: THE 57 IS RADAR GUIDED.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE 37?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT. IN SOME CASES IT IS, IN SOME CASES IT ISN'T, I BELIEVE, BUT LET ME TAKE THAT TO MAKE SURE.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN FIRE IT UN-RADAR GUIDED IF YOU WANT TO.

Q: THOSE ARE WHAT -- ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES?

A: ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. THEY FIRE SHELLS OR BULLETS.

Q: HOW ABOUT THIS ZOOM 24, QUAD?

A: NO INFORMATION ON THAT. AGAIN THAT WOULD BE A LOGICAL ONE TO SUSPECT BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION.

Q: DO THEY HAVE THAT AT ALL? DO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE THAT?

A: THEY HAVE HAD THE QUAD IN THEIR INVENTORY IN THE PAST.

Q: NO FURTHER INDICATION THAT AMERICAN PLANES HAVE BEEN FIRED ON?

A: NO, ACTUALLY WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY REPORTS TODAY.

Q: IS THERE ANY ACTUAL FIGHTING GOING ON?

A: THERE'S ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS YESTERDAY.

Q: LIGHT?

A: IT'S LIGHT, IT'S IN JUST ABOUT THE SAME PLACES. THERE ISN'T MUCH GOING ON TO THE EAST OF BIEN HOA TOWARD XUAN LOC, THAT'S QUIET. THERE IS SOME FIGHTING TO THE SOUTHWEST AND THERE'S FIGHTING ON THE NORTHWEST BUT NOTHING BIG.

Q: SOUTHWEST, HOW CLOSE TO SAIGON?

A: I COULDN'T GIVE YOU A FIGURE. THE FIGHTING ITSELF IS PROBABLY ABOUT 15 MILES, I THINK. BUT I WANT TO TRY TO AVOID MISLEADING YOU FROM THE STANDPOINT THAT THERE MAY BE TROOPS WHERE THERE ISN'T ANY FIGHTING THAT ARE CLOSER THAN WHERE THE FIGHTING IS. THE FIGHTING IS NOT VERY CLOSE.

Q: HOW LONG HAS THE LULL BEEN GOING ON NOW?

A: I GUESS ABOUT THREE DAYS, HASN'T IT? WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT IT YESTERDAY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT A CEASEFIRE IS IMMINENT?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT AT ALL.

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IN 18951/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4897 1150057-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 250041Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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UNCLAS 2444

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Q: ANY INDICATION THAT THEY'RE HOLDING OFF WHEN THEY COULD MARCH RIGHT THROUGH?

A: WE REALLY HAVE NO INDICATION ON WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

Q: ANY INDICATION THAT A SURRENDER OF SAIGON IS IMMINENT?

A: NO INDICATION OF THAT.

Q: ANY INDICATIONS OF ANY SUPPLY PROBLEMS OR LOGISTIC DIFFICULTIES?

A:

I KNOW THAT'S BEING PASSED AROUND AS A POSSIBILITY AND IT IS, OF COURSE, A POSSIBILITY, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THAT'S THE REASON. YOU RECALL, BEFORE THEY STARTED, THEY HAD, AS WE POINTED OUT HERE MANY TIMES, A TREMENDOUS STOCK OF SUPPLIES. IT'S TRUE THEY'VE PRACTICALLY DOUBLED THE SIZE OF THE FORCE BUT OUR ESTIMATES WERE THEY HAD ENOUGH THERE FOR THEIR PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4897 UNCLAS

ORIGINAL FORCE, WHICH WAS EIGHT DIVISIONS, TO FIGHT ABOUT A YEAR. YOU KNOW IF YOU DOUBLE IT THEORETICALLY YOU'VE GOT SIX MONTHS. BUT THERE MAY BE SOME LOCAL PROBLEM, IT'S POSSIBLE.

Q: (INAUDIBLE), IN MR III?

A: I'M TALKING ABOUT AVAILABLE TO THEM IN MR III.

Q: LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY, IS THERE ANY MILITARY REASON WE KNOW OF WHY THEY WOULDN'T MOVE ON SAIGON?

A: THE POSSIBILITIES ON THE MILITARY SIDE ARE THE NECESSITY TO RESUPPLY, THEY HAVE AS I THINK I SAID YESTERDAY, THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY FOUGHT IN KIND OF FITS AND STARTS BECAUSE THEY THEY GO TO AN OBJECTIVE, STOP, RESUPPLY, REORGANIZE, GO ON TO THE NEXT ONE. THE DELAYS BETWEEN THESE THINGS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN AS LONG AS A COUPLE OF WEEKS OR ONLY AS LONG AS A COUPLE OF DAYS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT WARREN RAISED IS OF COURSE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF THAT, THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY. THIS IS ALL VERY THEORETICAL.

Q: IS THERE ANY BAD WEATHER CONDITION OUT THERE, LIKE HEAVY RAINS?

A: NOTHING PARTICULAR.

Q: THE RAINY SEASON HASN'T STARTED?

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4897 UNCLAS

A: IT'S GOING TO START PRETTY SOON BUT IT HASN'T REALLY STARTED.

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Q: ARE WE STILL FLYING AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM INCLUDING THOSE PORTIONS WHICH ARE OCCUPIED?

A: UNARMED AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION, IT'S A GOOD QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. I WOULD PRESUME IT'S YES, BUT LET ME TAKE IT.

Q: WHAT'S OUR SITUATION AS FAR AS THE NUMBER OF SHIPS WE'VE GOT NOW OFF THE COAST IS THAT STILL AROUND 40?

A: THERE'D BE NO CHANGE IN AN OVERALL FIGURE -- AROUND 40 IS STILL ABOUT RIGHT.

Q: ANY MOVEMENT OF MARINES?

A: NO ADDITIONAL MOVEMENT OF MARINES.

Q: THERE WAS A UPI PICTURE YESTERDAY SHOWING MARINES IN HAWAII 1,500 OF THEM READY FOR MOVEMENT.

A: THAT MUST BE AN OLD PICTURE. WELL YOU REMEMBER, THE LAST AIRPLANE OF THAT BATTALION THAT WE SENT TO OKINAWA JUST LEFT YESTERDAY. THEY DON'T ALL GET IN AN AIRPLANE AT ONCE AND FLY OUT.

Q: THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THERE WERE 1,500?  
PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4897 UNCLAS

A: I HAVE NOTHING I CAN RELEASE ON THAT OTHER THAN WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY, THE NORMAL SIZE.

Q: WE WERE GIVEN STRONG INDICATION THAT IT WAS A NORMAL SIZE BATTALION WHICH IS BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000.

A: LET ME EXPLAIN THAT A LITTLE BIT. YOU HAVE THREE TERMS TO WORRY ABOUT, A BATTALION, A BATTALION'S LANDING TEAM AND A MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT. THE BATTALION WOULD RUN BETWEEN 800 AND 1,000. IF YOU THROW IN THE REST, THAT MAKES IT A BATTALION LANDING TEAM, THAT MEANS IT'S GOT AN ARTILLERY BATTERY, IT'S GOT ARMORED AMPHIBIOUS TROOP CARRIERS, IT'S GOT A LOT OF OTHER THINGS. IT ADDS ON SO YOU GET UP TO AROUND THE 1,200 - 1,300 LEVEL. THEN LET'S SAY YOU PUT HELICOPTERS ON IT, THE AIR COMBAT ELEMENT ITS' CALLED -- AND AS YOU RECALL WE SENT OUT ONE OF THOSE WITH THE HANCOCK -- THAT ADDS ANOTHER 300 OR SO MORE. SO WHEN YOU GET UP TO A MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT YOU'RE UP AROUND 1,700 - 1,800. NOW WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TALK ABOUT BATTALION LANDING TEAMS BECAUSE IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT WOULD BE DONE MORE OR LESS ON THE SPOT. SO WE'RE PRIMARILY CARRYING THE TROOP AS BATTALION LANDING TEAMS.

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Q: COULD YOU TELL US WHAT WAS MOVED FROM OKINAWA?

A: IT WAS A BATTALION LANDING TEAM THAT MOVED FROM OKINAWA AND A BATTALION MOVED FROM HONOLULU. IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT SOME DAY THAT BATTALION WON'T BECOME A BATTALION LANDING TEAM.

Q: SOMEBODY WAS TELLING ME YESTERDAY THAT THE SITUATION COULD COME TO HEAD AS EARLY AS THIS WEEKEND. IN OTHER WORDS, EITHER THERE'S SOME SORT OF A POLITICAL STOP OR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE VIET CONG DECIDED TO GO AHEAD. THIS APPARENTLY WAS THE FEELING AMONG SOME PEOPLE IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THERE'S A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT FEELINGS. DO YOU GET

THE FEELING THAT WE'RE COMING CLOSE TO . . . .

A: IF YOU WANT TO TALK IN TERMS OF ENEMY CAPABILITIES, THEY HAVE THE CAPABILITY RIGHT NOW OF MOUNTING A MASSIVE ATTACK, SO THEY'VE GOT THAT OPTION. BUT I THINK WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS THE INTENTIONS. I WOULD HESITATE AS A FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TO COMMENT ON INTENTIONS. IT'S A VERY DANGEROUS THING TO DO, BUT THEY DO HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF DOING EITHER OF THE THINGS YOU SAID. AS FAR AS THE OFFICIAL DEFENSE POSITION ON THIS, WE HAVE NONE. IT'S NOT LOGICAL TO HAVE ONE.

Q: THERE'S BEEN SOME ESTIMATES THOUGH, BUT THESE DAYS THERE'S PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 4897 UNCLAS  
LOT OF HEDING I GUESS, OF WHAT THE INTENTIONS ARE, BUT HAVE YOU HEARD OR SEEN REPORTS THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN SOON OR THIS THIS WEEKEND?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN ANY MINUTE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF CAPABILITIES. SO YOU'D HAVE TO SAY THAT SOMETHING COULD HAPPEN THIS WEEKEND; WE'RE NOT SAYING THAT IT WILL, WE AREN'T SAYING THAT IT WON'T EITHER.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE LIFTING OUT OF SAIGON EACH DAY AND HOW MANY ARE AMERICANS AND HOW MANY ARE VIETNAMESE?

A: PLEASE GO ASK AMBASSADOR BROWN AT STATE DEPARTMENT THIS QUESTION.

Q: HOW MANY CONTRACT FREIGHTERS ARE IN THE SAIGON HARBOR?

A: TODAY, WE'RE DOWN TO THREE.

Q: WE WERE TOLD YESTERDAY THAT'S ALL, THREE'S LEFT.

A: I CHECKED THAT THIS MORNING AND THAT'S WRONG. I HEARD THAT YESTERDAY TOO, BUT AS OF AN HOUR OR TWO AGO, THERE WERE THREE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING?

A: THEY'RE WAITING FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

Q: WHAT DID THE ONE TAKE OUT?

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IN 18959/115/75

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 250041Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

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A: AS FAR AS I CAN FIND OUT, IT DIDN'T TAKE OUT ANYTHING.

Q: WHERE'D THEY GO?

A: OUT TO SEA.

Q: IT'S NOT STANDING OFF VUNG TAU OR SOMEPLACE?

A: I DON'T KNOW ACTUALLY, BUT IT'S STANDING OFF SOME PLACE.

Q: TWO LEFT EMPTY, IS THAT RIGHT?

A: I'D HAVE TO CHECK THE FIRST ONE.

Q: YESTERDAY'S ONE, WENT OUT EMPTY.

A: THAT'S THE ONE I'M TALKING ABOUT. THE ONE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THEY'RE BOTH EMPTY, ACTUALLY, BUT I'LL CHECK THAT.

Q: DOES MR. SCHLESINGER HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THE DICK LEVINE PIECE IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ABOUT HIS BAD INTELLIGENCE?

A: I'M NOT SPEAKING FOR MR. SCHLESINGER ON THIS, BUT AS I PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 4898 UNCLAS

POINTED OUT FROM THIS PLATFORM RIGHT AFTER THE FIRST EVENT, NAMELY, THAT THIS YEAR HE ESTIMATED WOULD BE A CHIPPING AWAY AND THAT THE MAIN OFFENSIVE WOULD COME NEXT YEAR. JUST TWO PARAGRAPHS LATER HE POINTED OUT THAT HE WASN'T RULING OUT THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLOIT ANY OPPORTUNITIES THEY, MIGHT DEVELOP. SO I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALL THAT BAD.

Q: LOOKING FROM HINDSIGHT, IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY REALLY IMPROVISED THAT THAT THEY HAD NOT PLANNED A MAJOR OFFENSIVE THIS YEAR, BUT IT OPENED UP FOR THEM WHEN THE RETREAT CAME?

A: I THINK THAT IS THE CONCLUSION THAT MOST OF THE ANALYSTS ARE REACHING, THAT THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. THEY HAD A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY WHICH THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF.

Q: JUST FOR THE RECORD, HAVE WE LANDED ANY MARINES INTO SOUTH VIETNAM OR ANY MARINES ON THOSE FREIGHTERS IN PORT NEAR SAIGON?

A: NO, THE ONLY MARINES IN VIETNAM ARE THE ONES WHO ARE GUARDING THE EMBASSY IN SAIGON.

Q: IS THERE ANY INDICATION OF SMALL BOAT ACTIVITY AS PART AS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFF THE COAST?

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 4898 UNCLAS

A: THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE AT LEAST THINKING ABOUT, AND QUITE LOGICALLY, USING THE PORTS

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THAT THEY'VE CAPTURED FURTHER SOUTH FOR RESUPPLY.

Q: ARE THEY GETTING CLOSE TO OUR. . . .

A: WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY INDICATIONS OF THAT. THE INDICATIONS ARE ALL LOGISTICAL.

Q: WHAT ARE THE INDICATIONS, CAN YOU DETAIL THAT?

A: THERE'VE BEEN A COUPLE OF SHIPS AT LEAST THAT HAVE MOVED DOWN, AT LEAST AS FAR AS CHU LAI AND WE'RE EXPECTING THEY'LL BE SHOWING UP FURTHER SOUTH THAN THAT.

Q: WHAT KIND OF SHIPS?

A: LOGISTICAL SHIPS, CARGO CARRIERS, NOT LARGE, BUT CARGO.

Q: ARE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE NAVY CHALLENGING THEM?

A: NO, I'M SURE THEY'RE NOT.

Q: ANY SIGN OF SOVIET NVA SHIPS GOING TO DANANG, NOW THAT'S OPEN AGAIN?

A: I BELIEVE THE ANSWER TO THAT IS YES, BUT LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: MR. SCHLESINGER'S VISIT TODAY WITH FRENCH AND GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHO'S COMING INTO TODAY?

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 4898 UNCLAS

A: THIS IS A BIPARTISAN GROUP WHICH INCLUDES YOUNG FRENCH, GERMAN AND AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH COUNTRY'S LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES. THERE ARE NO NAMES. THIS IS A GROUP TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW THE OTHER NATION WORKS. IT'S A PROGRAM THAT'S BEEN GOING ON SINCE 1970 AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER DENITZ OF ISRAEL?

A: NO, I CAN'T TALK ABOUT WHAT HE SAID IN THERE. I CAN REINTERAT HIS PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION AND THE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION ON THE MATTER OF SUPPORT TO ISRAEL, NAMELY, THAT THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL WOULD REMAIN AN OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q: IS THERE ANY REASON WHY HIS VISIT WAS NOT LISTED YESTERDAY?

A: WE'RE ALL TRYING TO FIND OUT THAT HAPPENED.

Q: HAVE ANY MIGS SHOWN UP IN SOUTH TODAY?

A: NO.

Q: ANY COMBAT PLANES?

A: NO COMBAT PLANES.

Q: THEY'RE CONTINUING COURIER FLIGHTS?

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 4898 UNCLAS

A: COURIER FLIGHTS.

Q: IS THERE A PENTAGON WRAP-UP ON THE SOVIET NAVY EXERCISE?

A: NOTHING NEW REALLY. I'VE ASKED THEM TO LET ME KNOW WHEN THE THING APPEARS TO BECOMING TO AN END BUT IT'S STILL GOING ON IN OTHER WORDS.

Q: DID WE EVER FIND OUT WHETHER ANY OF THE CARRIERS WERE ENGAGED IN THIS EXERCISE THAT IS THE TWO HELICOPTER CARRIERS?

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS, WERE YOU GOING TO LOOK THAT UP THE OTHER DAY?

A: I CAN'T GIVE YOU A NUMBER. IN TRYING TO ADD UP WHAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT SO FAR, IT WOULD COME TO ABOUT 70. I CAN SAY THAT, BUT THAT'S NOT EXACTLY RIGHT. IT'S BETTER THAN 70.

Q: 70 TRANSPORTS OR . . . .

A: TRANSPORTS. COUNT EHM ALL, I'D GET MORE THAN THAT.

Q: WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GIVE US THAT ERRONEOUS FIGURE AND TELL US THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN THAT?

A: I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO GIVE YOU THE EXACT FIGURE, WE HAD FROM TIME-TO-TIME MENTIONED CERTAIN NUMBERS AND IF ANYONE ADDED THEM ALL UP HE'D GET AROUND 70.

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Q: IS THAT 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL?

A: NO, THAT'S A CLOSE FIGURE.

Q: HOW DID YOU GET TO IT?

A: THIS GOES WAY BACK TO WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE OKINAWA WEEKS AGO.

Q: I'VE GOT 15 ON EACH, IS THAT WRONG?

A: THERE'RE OTHERS INSERTED IN THERE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE MY FIGURE. I'M NOT GONG OT INSIST ON IT.

Q: ARE MOST OF THESE ON THE OKINAWA?

A: NO, THEY'RE SPREAD AROUND.

Q: ARE THEY ON MORE THAN THE THREE SHIPS -- OKINAWA, MIDWAY AND HANCOCK?

A: THERE ARE FIVE CARRIERS BUT THE THREE THAT YOU MENTIONED ARE THE PRINCIPALS.

Q: LET'S ASSUME THAT TON SON NHUT IS CLOSED DOWN. I'VE HEARD A FIGURE THAT WE COULD GET OUT BETWEEN 5 AND 10,000 PEOPLE A DAY FROM DOWNTOWN, UNLESS THE TROOPS WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE, USING THESE HELICOPTERS. IS THAT ACCURATE?

A: I'D SAY THAT WOULD BE HIGH. AS I SAID YESTERDAY AND I DON'T HAVE AN EXACT FIGURE, LET'S SAY 1,600, THAT COULD BE DONE

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IN 18961/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS4899 1150103-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

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UNCLAS 2444

SECTION 5 OF 5

IN A DAY.

Q: 1,600 COULD BE DONE IN A DAY?

A: WEATHER PERMITTING, RESISTANCE PERMITTING AND ALL THE VARIABLES WOULD HAVE TO BE RIGHT.

Q: ARE WE HOLDING UP ON THE EVACUATION OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE UNTIL WE GET CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL?

A: I RECOMMEND YOU ASK THAT OF STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q: IS THERE ANY COST FIGURE YOU CAN PUT ON THE OPERATION SO FAR?

A: NO, I COULDN'T NOW. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

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IN 18964/115/75 /ACK

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PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5027 1152330-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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BT

UNCLAS 3573

SECTION 1 OF 5

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1975,  
11:15 A.M. BY MGEN SIDLE

1. ON THE HILL: MR. VERNON MCKENZIE, PDASD/H&E, APPEARS BEFORE AN OPEN SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONOPOLY OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS; THE SUBJECT IS DRUG PROCUREMENT A COPY IS AVAILABLE.

2. SPEECHES: NAVY SECRETARY MIDDENDORF WILL SPEAK IN NORFOLK, VA. TODAY AND NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, TONIGHT. HE'S GOING TO BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT THE NAVY LEAGUE IN NEW ORLEANS. THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE. THEN HE'S GOING TO NEWPORT NEWS VIRGINIA, TOMORROW FOR THE KEEL-LAYING PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5027 UNCLAS

OF THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BIRMINGHAM AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BATON ROUGE.

3. MR. CLEMENTS IS GOING TO FLORIDA TONIGHT AND HE WILL WATCH THE POLARIS MISSILE TEST OFF CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, WHICH TAKES PLACE TOMORROW.

Q: WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE POLARIS TEST?

A: HE HAS NOT SEEN ONE.

4. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF AIR FORCE GENERAL OFFICER ASSIGNMENT CHANGES:

MGEN ALDEN G. GLAUCH, COMDR, 21 AF, MAC MCGUIRE AFB

MGEN LESTER T. KEARNEY, JR. VICE DIR, J-5

BGEN HARRY C. ADERHOLT, COMDR, USMACTHAI/

BGEN HARRY A MORRIS, DCS/O, MAC SCOTT AFB

COL KENNETH D. BURNS, VICE COMDR, USAFSS, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

5. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF PACIFIC, ADMIRAL GAYLER, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE'S ORDERING ABOUT 600 ARMY MEN AND WOMEN IN 200-PERSON INCREMENTS TO MOVE FROM HAWAII TO GUAM. THE IDEA IS TO MAKE THE TRANSITION MORE COMFORTABLE AND ORDERLY FOR REFUGEES FROM SOUTH VIETNAM WHO ARE COMING INTO GUAM. WE HAVE A COPY OF THAT ANNOUNCEMENT.

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Q: WHAT ARE THEIR SPECIALTIES?

A: THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME MILITARY POLICE, MEDICAL AND

PA  
MP  
JA  
MM  
P  
INT  
SPD

FD

ISM

HD

POC+?

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VARIOUS OTHER SKILLS THAT YOU NEED FOR TAKING CARE OF REFUGEES.

6. GENERAL JONES, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE, WILL VISIT IRAN. HE LEAVES APRIL 26 AND HE WILL BE HOSTED BY THE IMPERIAL IRANIAN AIR FORCE. HE'S GOING TO VISIT SOME OF THEIR INSTALLATIONS AND HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AND U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

7. I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME ABOUT ANY CHANGES IN THE FORCE STRUCTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SO I WANT TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CRUISER OKLAHOMA CITY, FLAGSHIP OF THE SEVENTH FLEET IS NOW IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND ADMIRAL GEORGE B. STEEL, II, THE SEVENTH FLEET COMMANDER IS ON BOARD. THE REASON OF COURSE IS THE MAJORITY OF THE SEVENTH FLEET'S SHIPS ARE IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

8. YOU ASKED ME ABOUT THE LONG BEACH THE OTHER DAY. IT IS NO LONGER IN THE AREA. IT'S IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC SO THAT THE ONE CRUISER IN THE FLEET SAILING AROUND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS THE OKLAHOMA CITY.

9. WE HAVE AUGMENTED AS OF A FEW HOURS AGO THE GUARDS AT PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5027 UNCLAS  
THE EMBASSY IN SAIGON WITH APPROXIMATELY 40 MORE MARINES. THESE ARE INDIVIDUALS, NOT A UNIT.

Q: WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

A: THEY CAME FROM THE HANCOCK VIA HELICOPTER.

Q: HOW MANY MARINES ARE THERE NOW?

A: IT'S OVER 100.

Q: EIGHTY WAS THE FIGURE WE HAD LAST WEEK.

A: YOU CAN ADD. . . .

Q: DID IT HAPPEN TODAY?

A: YES, IT WOULD BE TODAY. THEIR TIME.

Q: ANY SPECIAL REASON?

A: NO, THEY REQUESTED A LITTLE REINFORCEMENT OF THE GUARD DETACHMENT. IT'S JUST A PRUDENT, PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

Q: WHO?

A: THE AMBASSADOR.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS THEY BROUGHT ALONG?

A: NO, JUST THE NORMAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS.

Q: WHY THIS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE?

A: I HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THAT OTHER THAN IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO ME.

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5027 UNCLAS

Q: TO BEEF UP SECURITY?

A: IT'S PURELY FOR SECURITY.

Q: ARE THEY IN UNIFORM AND PLAIN CLOTHES?

A: IN UNIFORM.

Q: WHY WOULD IT BE MORE LOGICAL TODAY THAN YESTERDAY?

A: THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION. YOU REMEMBER WE DID THE SAME THING IN PHNOM PENH. WE BROUGHT IN 15 OR SO THERE.

Q: ARE THEY EXPECTING AN ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT. IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE THOUGH, YOU RECALL.

Q: HOW SOON AFTER WE REINFORCED THE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH THAT WE EVACUATED IT? ONE DAY?

A: OH, NO, IT WAS LONGER THAN THAT. SEVERAL DAYS

Q: THEY WENT IN IN PLAIN CLOTHES?

A: NO, THEY WENT IN IN FATIGUES, I THOUGHT. ANYWAY THESE MARINES WENT IN IN FATIGUES OR WHATEVER UNIFORM THEY'RE WEARING OUT THERE.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE HANCOCK WAS AT THE TIME IT HAPPANED?

A: SOUTH CHINA SEA. NO, I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT HAD TO BE

PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5027 UNCLAS

CLOSE ENOUGH SO THAT THEY COULD FLY. I WOULDN'T DRAW ANY PARTICULAR CONCLUSION FROM THIS AT ALL. IT'S SOMETHING THE AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR AND WE PROVIDED.

Q: YOU SAID JUST A MINUTE AGO THAT WE DID THIS IN THE LAST DAYS OF PHNOM PENH; WELL, ARE WE IN THE LAST DAYS OF SAIGON?

A: I'M NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT, NO. THAT MAY BE BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY FORECAST.

Q: IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR THREAT TO THE EMBASSY TODAY AS OPPOSED TO LAST WEEK? HAS SOMETHING NEW BEEN DISCOVERED?

A: I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING NEW.

Q: DID THEY LAND AT TAN SON NHUT OR DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THAT EITHER, I DIDN'T CHECK THAT.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY HELICOPTERS THEY USED?

A: I UNDERSTOOD IT WAS ONE. YOU CAN SQUEEZE INTO ONE ON THOSE BIG JOBS.

Q: ARE THERE MARINE ANYWHERE ELSE THAN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A: NO, I'VE GIVEN YOU THE TOTAL CHANGES; ONE WAS THE OKLAHOMA CITY; ONE WAS THE MARINES.

Q: HOW MANY MARINES ON THE OKLAHOMA CITY?

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IN 19804/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5028 1152335-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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UNCLAS 3573

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A: WELL, THEY HAVE A REGULAR COMPLEMENT BUT IT'S SMALL.  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

Q: IS THE FIGURE NOW 4 OR 5,000 IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA?

A: WE'VE SAID THAT YOU MAY SPECULATE. IT'S OVER 4,000.  
I HAVE NOT CONFIRMED WHAT IT IS SINCE THEN, BUT OBVIOUSLY,  
YOU CAN DRAW REASONABLY CORRECT CONCLUSIONS.

Q: CAN WE ASSUME THAT THE HANCOCK IS ABOUT 100 MILES OFF  
SHORE?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS NOW. IT WOULDN'T HAVE TO STAY  
THERE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPECULATE CH

THAT AT ALL; OBVIOUSLY, IT  
HAS TO BE WITHIN RANGE, BUT I THINK SOME OF THOSE CHOPPERS CAN  
GO 150 MILES WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

Q: WELL, THAT'S WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT.

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5028 UNCLAS

A: YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER  
IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE. I JUST DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. IT  
WOULD HAVE TO BE WITHIN THAT RADIUS.

Q: WAS THERE A LARGE GROUP OF MARINES ON THE LONG BEACH  
BEFORE IT PULLED OUT?

A: NO, JUST A NORMAL COMPLEMENT.

Q: WOULD IT BE SIMILAR TO THE NUMBERS ON THE OKLAHOMA CITY?

A: YES, THE OKLAHOMA CITY DID NOT BRING IN A BIG BATCH OF  
MARINES.

Q: THE OKLAHOMA CITY JUST REPLACED THE LONG BEACH?

A: IN ESSENCE.

Q: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY FURTHER REPORTS FROM TAN SON NHUT OF  
AIRCRAFT BEING FIRED ON?

A: THERE WAS ONE MORE REPORT BY AN INCOMING PILOT TODAY,  
JUST THE SAME AS THE OTHERS. WE DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS. HE  
REPORTED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN FIRED ON -- ABOUT  
11 ROUNDS -- WHILE ON HIS LANDING APPROACH. UPON LANDING THERE  
WAS NO DAMAGE.

Q: WHAT KIND OF PLANE?

A: C-130.

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Q: WHAT KIND OF PILOT?

A: U.S. AIR FORCE.

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Q: HAVE ALL THE FIRINGS BEEN AT INCOMING AIRCRAFT?

A: AT LEAST FOUR WERE INCOMING BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE FIFTH.

Q: THE OTHER DAY YOU WERE ASKED WHAT YOUR REACTION WOULD BE IF DURING THE EVACUATION FROM TAN SON NHUT AMERICAN PLANES WERE FIRED AT. I THINK YOU WERE ASKED IF AIR STRIKES MIGHT TAKE PLACE AND YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE THE QUESTION.

A: I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH. THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMANDER IN THE FIELD ARE THAT HE IS TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT SO THAT YOU COULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE YOU A SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THAT. YOU CAN DRAW ALL KINDS OF LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS.

Q: YOU SAID YOUR FEELING WAS THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO.

A: EXACTLY RIGHT AND THAT'S STILL MY FEELING BUT I'M NOT THE COMMANDER IN THE FIELD. HE'S THE GUY THAT'S GOING TO MAKE THE DECISION.

Q: WHO IS THE COMMANDER THAT MAKES THE DECISION?

A: IF AND WHEN THIS KICKS OFF A MAH WWLL BE DRISHATEE/ ,HT  
PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5028 UNCLAS  
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT WILL BE. THE COMMANDER IN THE FIELD WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE THE COMMANDER OF THE MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE THERE.

Q: THAT'S ASSUMING YOU'RE GOING TO PUT MARINES IN.

A: THAT'S RIGHT AND THAT'S WHY IT'S HARD TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME. I WAS ASSUMING THAT THAT WAS THE QUESTION.

Q: YOU SAY THE COMMANDER WILL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO CALL IN AIR?

A: YOU HAVE TO DO IT THAT WAY; YOU CAN'T DICTATE FROM HERE HOW YOU ARE GOING TO DO IT IN DETAIL. THERE'S JUST NO WAY.

Q: YOU WERE HERE IN THE MCNAMARA PERIOD?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THOSE DAYS MADE A RATHER STRONG EFFORT TO TRY TO DICTATE EVERYTHING BUT ACTUALLY THEY COULDN'T, EVEN WITH ALL THAT CONTROL.

Q: YOU COULD IF YOU SET UP A PROPOSITION; IF AMERICAN PLANES DURING EVACUATION COME UNDER ATTACK, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO HAVE AIR STRIKES AGAINST THE SAM-2S OR WHATEVER.

A: NO, THAT IS NOT THE WAY YOU DO IT. YOU LEAVE IT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE MAN IN THE FIELD. YOU HAVE TO GIVE HIM GUIDE-  
PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5028 UNCLAS

LINES AS NO UNNECESSARY FORCE AND THINGS LIKE THAT. IT WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS FOR ANYBODY IN WASHINGTON TO TELL THE MAN IN THE FIELD HOW TO DO THE DETAILS OF HIS JOB. IT JUST WON'T WORK THAT WAY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE SAM-2S ARE ANY CLOSER, WITHIN THE 20 MILES?

A: NO SIR, WE'RE JUST WHERE WE WERE YESTERDAY ON THAT -- NO CHANGE.

Q: YOU AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE SAM-2S; AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE SA-7?



A: THE SA-7 IS PROBABLY A MORE SERIOUS WORRY. THE RADAR GUIDED 57 IS A WORRY TOO.

Q: DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE BRINGING IN MORE SA-7S?

A: NO, THERE'S REALLY NO INDICATION OF THAT.

Q: YOU ALWAYS HAVE THIS DISCRETION.

A: SURE. WE HAD THAT DISCRETION ALL ALONG FOR AMERICANS.

Q: THE ONLY THING YOU GOT FROM CONGRESS WAS THIS ADDITIONAL DISCRETION WITH REGARD TO THE EVACUATION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE?

A: YES. THE RULES ARE THE SAME.

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Q: THE SA-7 SHOT DOWN AN A-37 ABOUT A WEEK AGO. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY FIRINGS BY SA-7S IN THAT AREA?

A: I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY REPORTS OF THAT BUT LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: HOW MANY WILD WEASEL AIRCRAFT DO YOU HAVE IN THAILAND?

A: I AM NOT PERMITTED TO COMMENT CH THAO.

Q: IS THERE A SHORTAGE OF MAC AIRCRAFT OR CONTRACT AIRCRAFT ARRIVING IN TAN SON NHUT TO TAKE OUT REFUGEES? WE HAD REPORTS OF FEWER FLIGHTS AND THE BACKLOG HAS INCREASED FROM 1,000 TO 5,000.

A: I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THAT. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY REPORT OF SHORTAGE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY AIRLIFT REPORT FOR YESTERDAY?

A: STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER THAT.

Q: THE ENTERPRISE IS STILL IN THAT GENERAL AREA?

A: ALL FIVE OF THE CARRIERS THAT WE'VE BEEN CARRYING . . . .

Q: ARE THE F-14S BEING RESTRICTED TO FLIGHTS OFF THE COAST?

A: YES, WE'RE NOT INVADING THE LAND SPACE, THE AIR SPACE, OR WATER SPACE OF THE COUNTRY.

Q: EVEN SOUTH VIETNAM THERE'S NO F-14 FLYING IN?

BT

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IN 19807/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5029 1152346-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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SECTION 3 OF 5

A: NO.

Q: WHAT IS THE HEAVIEST WEAPONS THE MARINES HAVE AT THE EMBASSY?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION. THEY HAVE MACHINE GUNS, HAND GRENADES, RIFLE GRENADES, M-16 RIFLES. WHETHER THEY HAVE MORTARS OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: HOW MANY BASES ARE BEING LOOKED INTO AS POSSIBLE CAMPS FOR THE VIETNAMESE THAT WILL ARRIVE IN THE U.S.?

A: THIS IS A PLANNING PROCESS THAT WE ARE GOING THROUGH NOW. NOBODY HAS BEEN ALERTED OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. EACH SERVICE HAS BEEN ASKED TO COME UP WITH WHERE THEY THINK THEY COULD TAKE HOW MANY, THAT SORT OF THING. FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ARMY BASES THAT ARE USED BY THE RESERVE COMPONENTS, PRIMARILY, THAT DO HAVE SPACE AVAILABLE

Q: WOULD FORT CHAFFEE BE ONE OF THEM?

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A: FORT CHAFFEE WOULD BE ONE OF THEM THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERING BECAUSE THAT'S A SIZEABLE CAMP AND MORE THAN A DIVISION WAS THERE WHEN IT WAS ACTIVE. IT DOES DO A BIG BUSINESS IN RESERVE COMPONENT TRAINING. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF NATIONAL GUARD BRIGADES AND SIZEABLE U.S. ARMY RESERVE UNITS EVERY YEAR. IN FACT, IT GETS USED BY SOMEBODY ALMOST EVERY WEEKEND. BUT IT'S SUFFICIENTLY BIG THAT IT COULD BE USED FOR REFUGEES AS WELL WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH THE TRAINING UNLESS IT GOT OVERLOADED. I THINK RIGHT NOW THEY HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF FEEDING 20,000 PEOPLE. WITH A LITTLE BIT OF REINFORCEMENT IT COULD BE MORE THAN THAT. I KNOW THIS BECAUSE IT WAS ONE CAMP THAT I USED IN MY LAST ASSIGNMENT FOR THE TRAINING OF RESERVES.

Q: WHAT WOULD BE THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE ARMY?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q: WHAT OTHER CAMPS ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

A: I DON'T KNOW BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF LOGICAL ONES SUCH AS CAMP ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, CAMP PICKETT, VIRGINIA -- TWO THAT COME QUICKLY TO MIND ALONG WITH CHAFFEE.

Q: ALL SERVICES ARE INCLUDED?

A: YES, ALL SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LOOK INTO THIS.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5029 UNCLAS

Q: HAVE MORE C-130S BEEN MOVING TO GUAM, THE PHILIPPINES OR SAIGON NOW THAT CIVILIAN PLANES HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM LANDING

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AT TAN SON NHUT?

A: NO, NOT YET. THE THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND AS YOU ASKED THE QUESTION THAT MAYBE SOME WILL BE BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION AT THIS MOMENT.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY THAT ALL SERVICES HAVE BEEN ASKED. . . .

A: THEY WEREN'T GIVEN ANY FIGURES. THE WAY YOU DO IT IS YOU ASK FOR THEIR CAPACITY AND WHERE WOULD YOU HOUSE THIS CAPACITY, WHAT WOULD IT COST YOU IN TERMS OF DOLLARS AND WHAT WOULD YOU NEED IN TERMS OF BEDS, FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, ETC.

Q: HOW MANY CAMPS CAN THE ARMY COME UP WITH?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: HAVE YOU BEEN GIVEN A CERTAIN NUMBER TO COME UP WITH?

A: NO, JUST THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IT WAS 'WHAT HAVE GOT THAT CAN BE USED?'

Q: BY WHEN MUST THIS INFORMATION BE IN?

A: NOT A PARTICULAR DEADLINE BUT THEY ASKED FOR IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Q: THIS IS FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN?

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A: IT WILL GO TO HIM, YES.

Q: I ASKED FOR A COST FIGURE ON THIS OPERATION YESTERDAY.

A: I DON'T HAVE IT, IT'S STILL WORKING.

Q: WHEN DOES GUAM REACH ITS CAPACITY? YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT IT HAS A CAPACITY FOR SEVERAL THOUSAND AND NOW THEY HAVE 9 OR 12,000.

A: I WAS TALKING ABOUT COVERED SHELTER, NOT COUNTING TENTS.

Q: IN COUNTING TENTS, WHEN DOES GUAM REACH ITS CAPACITY?

A: GUAM HAS BEEN TOLD TO PREPARE TO TAKE 25,000 AND BE READY TO TAKE ANOTHER 25,000.

Q: CAN GUAM DO IT?

A: I'M SURE THAT IT CAN; THEY'LL NEED ASSISTANCE, OF COURSE.

Q: 50,000 WOULD BE THERE AT ONE TIME; YOU WON'T MOVE IN 25,000 AT A TIME?

A: I'M NOT SAYING THAT WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN. THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOR 25,000 AND MAYBE FOR ANOTHER 25,000.

Q: WHO IS COORDINATING THIS?

A: THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION? IS THERE STILL A LULL?

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A: IT IS ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT WAS YESTERDAY. THERE'S A LITTLE ACTION. I GATHER THE EMPHASIS TODAY IS A LITTLE FURTHER TO THE WEST THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY. I'M TALKING SMALL ACTIONS.

Q: ANY IDEA OF THE LONG-PLANNING, THE SAME AS YESTERDAY?

A: I HAVE NO DIFFERENT ANSWERS TO GIVE

Q: M. THE LUSS IS CONTINUING?

A: THE LULL IS CONTINUING.

Q: ANY IDEA YET ON THE NUMBER OF DESERTERS THAT HAVE TURNED THEMSELVES IN?

A: NO, WE'RE LOOKING INTO THIS-

Q: I WAS TOLD LAST WEEK THAT THERE WERE ONLY FIVE DESERTERS ON THE BOOKS.

A: THAT WE CARRIED.

Q: I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT THEN AND I DON'T BELIEVE IT NOW. THEY STUCK TO IT YESTERDAY AND I THINK SOMEBODY'S . . . .

A: I THINK THIS IS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM.

Q: THAT'S RIGHT, THE SAME OLD BUSINESS.

A: AS ALL OF US KNOW, THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE THERE. I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY.

Q: PASS THE WORD BACK TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE GIVING ME THAT PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5029 UNCLAS MICKEY MOUSE ANSWER THAT IT JUST WON'T DO.

A: I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT UNTIL IF AND WHEN EVERYBODY'S OUT; THEN WE'LL KNOW.

Q: YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU HAVE PEOPLE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

A: AS I JUST SAID THERE ARE SOME TURNING UP; I DON'T HAVE A FIGURE ON IT. MORE THAN FIVE.

Q: MORE THAN FIVE?

A: THEY'RE GOING TO BE DEALT WITH BY THE SERVICE CONCERNED AND AS WE DISCUSSED THE OTHER DAY, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THAT. I'M SURE THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q: YOU SAID THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE TURNING UP; YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY?

A: I DON'T HAVE A FIGURE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY WERE TURNED OVER TO MILITARY CONTROL? ARE THEY JUST TURNING INTO THE EMBASSY AND COMING BACK ON A FLIGHT?

A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. I DON'T KNOW. IT HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, WHETHER IT'S IN TAN SON NHUT, OR CLAR OR WAKE OR GUAM OR WHATEVER, I DON'T KNOW.

BT

#5029

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IN 19818/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5030 1152354-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

ZNR UUUUU

RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

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Q: ON GUAM AGAIN, HOW LONG CAN 25,000 BE ACCOMMODATED THERE IF YOU HAVE THIS KIND OF INFORMATION AND THEN IF THEY GATHER ADDITIONAL, WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO MOVE FROM GUAM?

A: WE DON'T KNOW. WE CAN UNDOUBTEDLY ACCOMMODATE THEM FOR A LONG TIME, AS LONG AS THEY WANT US TO. IT WON'T BE THE SHERATON-HILTON, BUT IT WOULD BE AT LEAST LIVEABLE.

Q: ARE THE PLANS TO MOVE THEM ALL BY SHIP?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT EITHER. I DOUBT IF THAT KIND OF DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. THE PLAN RIGHT NOW IS TO MOVE THEM UP BY AIR. NOW IF IT GOT TO BE A BIG PROBLEM, SHIPS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

Q: THE VC NEWS AGENCY REPORTED THAT THE PORT OF DANANG IS NOW OPEN TO FOREIGN SHIPS. DO YOU OBSERVE ALREADY SOME FOREIGN SHIPS, FOR EXAMPLE, RUSSIANS OR CHINESE, IN THAT WATER?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY REPORT ON THAT, BUT I MUST SAY I PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5030 UNCLAS

HAVEN'T CHECKED THAT EITHER. SO LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: WE ASKED YESTERDAY IF THERE WAS ANY KIND OF SHIP MOVEMENT.

A: I KNOW THE ANSWER WAS NO YESTERDAY, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS TODAY.

Q: HAVE THEY MOVED COMBAT AIRCRAFT INTO THE SOUTH?

A: NO.

Q: WE ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT THE RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS?

A: RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS ARE, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT, BEING FLOWN UNARMED OVER TERRITORY AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THAT'S A LITTLE HAZY, I'LL GRANT YOU.

Q: WHO IS FLYING THEM, AMERICANS?

A: THE SAME AS WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG.

Q: WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS ALL ALONG?

A: FOR SURE, WE'VE ANNOUNCED THAT A NUMBER OF TIMES -- OVER SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q: THE LAST TIME WE ASKED THERE WERE 130,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS AGAINST 60,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS; HAS THAT CHANGED AT ALL?

A: I DON'T THINK MY OFFICIAL FIGURE'S CHANGED. IT COULD HAVE PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5030 UNCLAS ACTUALLY GONE UP SOME ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SIDE. I DON'T HAVE HAVE A CHANGE. LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION TOO. I THINK IT'S

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PROBABLY PRETTY CLOSE. I MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN UP TO 140,000.  
I DON'T KNOW. I'M JUST GUESSING AT THAT.

Q: STILL THE 14 DIVISIONS?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS' POSITION IS 14. I'VE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES SOME OTHER AGENCIES THINK IT MIGHT BE 15 OR EVEN 16; WE'RE SAYING IT.

Q: THOSE TWO UNITS FROM THE SOUTH, HAVE THEY MOVED UP MORE AND CHANGED THEIR POSITION?

A: INCHING FORWARD WOULD BE THE WAY TO HANDLE IT, BUT THE ONES FROM THE SOUTH ARE STILL PARTIALLY IN III CORPS AND PARTIALLY IN IV CORPS.

Q: ON THESE CAMPS THAT ARE BEING LOOKED AT FOR POSSIBLE CENTERS, WERE ANY FIGURES GIVEN TO COMMANDERS LIKE 175,000, 150,000?

A: NO, THAT'S THE POINT I'M GETTING AT. THEY DIDN'T WORK IT THAT WAY. THEY WORKED IT THE OTHER WAY; THEY SAID, 'HOW MANY CAN YOU ACCOMMODATE?' AND THEN AS I SAID WITH COST, AND PEOPLE, ETC. WILL BE NEEDED.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5030 UNCLAS.

Q: WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM? IS THIS OUT OF THE ALLEGEDLY HUMANITARIAN MONEY THAT CONGRESS IS VOTING NOW WOULD IT COME OUT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET?

A: STATE WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER THAT, BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE THE LOGICAL SOLUTION.

Q HAVE THEY MOVED TOWARDS VUNG TAU?

A: YES, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF SOME MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF VUNG TAU. AS FAR AS IT'S ACTUALLY BEING CUT OFF YET, I'M NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT. BUT THEY'RE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO ROUTE 15 WHICH COMES DOWN FROM BIEN HOA TO VUNG TAU.

Q: HOW IMPORTANT WOULD THAT BE IF THEY CUT IT OFF?

A, NOT PARTICULARLY.

Q: IN TERMS OF THE SEALIFT?

A: IN TERMS OF THE SEALIFT IT WOULD BE IMPORANT, IF THEY GOT TO THE SAIGON RIVER. BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN OVER THERE KNOW THAT THEY HAVE TO COME THROUGH THE RUNG SAT ANYWAY, WHICH IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP CLEAR IF SOMEBODY WANTS TO GO SHOOT A RPG 7 AT YOU, THEY'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO IT UNLESS THEY'RE UNLUCKY. IT TOOK US A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO  
PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5030 UNCLAS.

GET THAT PLACE SO THAT THEY COULDN'T DO IT BACK IN THE MID-60S. AND EVERY NOW AND THEN BACK THEN WITH A MAJOR EFFORT GOING ON, THEY STILL SNUCK THROUGH AND EITHER HIT A SHIP WITH A MINE OR WITH SOME SORT OF WEAPON.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN A GREAT GATHERING OF REFUGEES AT WUNG TAU ALREADY?

A: THERE HAS BEEN A SIZEABLE INCREASE IN THE POPULATION, I DON'T HAVE A FIGURE. I JUST HAVE SEEN SEVERAL FIGURES, BUT THEY VARY QUITE A BIT FROM SOMETHING LIKE 75 THOUSAND TO AROUND 200,000. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FIGURE IS.

Q: OF REFUGEES THERE? AND NO MOVEMENT AT ALL TO LOAD THEM

ON THE BOATS STANDING OFF VUNG TAU?

A: NONE THAT I KNOW OF.

Q: ARE WE GOING TO?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT.

Q: ARE WE GOING TO, OR ARE THE BOATS GOING TO STAND THERE AND THE REFUGEES STAND THERE?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'D TAKE THEM. THIS MIGHT BE A DIFFERENT KIND OF REFUGEE. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. THAT OUGHT TO REALLY BE ADDRESSED TO STATE.

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Q: THE THREE SHIPS ARE STILL IN SAIGON?

A: NO, THEY LEFT. THEY LEFT LAST NIGHT OUR TIME, ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND ARE NOW STANDING OFF VUNG TAU. THEY DID NOT TAKE PEOPLE.

Q: WE HAVE TEN STANDING OFF VUNG TAU NOW?

A: WE'VE GOT EITHER TEN OR ELEVEN IN THE GENERAL AREA. WHEN YOU SAY STANDING OFF VUNG TAU. I VISUALIZE LOOKING OUT OVER THE HORIZON AND THERE SITS A SHIP. THEY'RE NOT THAT CLOSE BUT THEY'RE IN THE AREA.

Q: TEN?

A: TEN'S A GOOD FIGURE. IT MIGHT BE 11.

Q: CAN YOU REMEMBER THE LANGUAGE OR APPROXIMATELY THE PURPOSE FOR LOOKING AT THESE BASES TO FIND OUT, WAS IT FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING BEFORE RESETTLEMENT?

A: THAT'S THE IDEA; FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING WITHOUT ANY LIMITATION OR TIME FRAME BEING PUT ON THE TEMPORARY.

Q: PRIOR TO RESETTLEMENT?

A: I THINK YOU COULD DRAW A PARALLEL BETWEEN WHAT WE DID WITH THE HUNGARIANS BACK AT CAMP KILMER. WE JUST KEPT THEM UNTIL WE GOT THEM ALL WORKED OUT WHICH TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS, AS I RECALL.

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IN 19824/115/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5031 1152358-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 252325Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 3573

SECTION 5 OF 5

Q CAN WE PRESUME THAT ONCE CONGRESS GIVES FINAL APPROVAL OF THIS EVACUATION MONEY, AND AUTHORIZES THE USE OF TROOPS ETC. THAT THE SEALIFT OPERATION WILL BEGIN?

A: I DON'T THINK YOU COULD ASSU4E ANYTHING. AS I SAID BEFORE, THIS IS BEING PLAYED BY EAR.

Q: IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR?

A: BASED ON THE CONTEXT OF YOUR QUESTION, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE POINT, I WOULDN'T DRAW THAT CONCLUSION.

Q: IS NOT THE SEALIFT BAN IN EFFECT, BY THE WAY THE LEGISLATION IS NOW PHRASED?

A: SINCE THE SIGNALS ON THIS ARE BEING CALLED BY STATE, I RECOMMEND YOU ASK THEM. ALL I KNOW IS WE DON'T HAVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO DO ANYTHING.

Q: DO WE HAVE AMERICANS IN VUNG TAU TO TAKE OUT?

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A: PROBABLY. WE'VE GOT SOME IN CAN THO SO WE OUGHT TO HAVE SOME IN VUNG TAU.

Q: BUT NOT NECESSARILY?

A: WE HAD AS OF YESTERDAY. THE CONSULATE'S DOWN IN CAN THO.

Q: BIEN HOA TOO, BUT THERE'S NOBODY IN IT APPARENTLY.

A: PROBABLY NOT.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE NO STANDING ORDER THAT WHEN CONGRESS ACTS TO GO AHEAD WITH IT?

A: THAT'S MY POINT. THE PLANNING ON THIS WOULD BE DONE BY STATE.

Q: HAVE YOU HAD ANY SUCCESS IN ROUNDING UP BY SOME MEANS BIOGS OF SOME OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GENERALS WORKING OR RUNNING THESE DIVISIONS IN THE SOUTH?

A: NO.

Q: YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MASTERMIND. IN EFFECT?

A: THERE OBVIOUSLY IS ONE. I HAVEN'T PURSUED THIS. WE PROBABLY COULD FIND OUT WHO THE BIG COMMANDER IS DOWN THERE. I JUST HAVEN'T LOOKED INTO IT ON THAT BASIS. LET ME DO THAT AND SEE IF THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN SAY ON IT.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THE ARMY BASES: DO WE HAVE ANY AIR FORCE OR NAVY INSTALLATIONS THAT. . . .

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A, I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH THEM, BUT THEY'VE PROBABLY GOT SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE ARMY'S. I DO NOT KNOW THE AIR FORCE

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HAD ONE, IT MAY HAVE BEEN DEACTIVATED, BUT ELLINGTON AIR FORCE BASE IN HOUSTON, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS IN THE SAME STATUS AS FORT CHAFFEE. IT WAS USED BY THE RESERVE AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. IT DOES HAVE BARRACKS; IT DOES HAVE BUILDINGS BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE AIR FORCE IS CONSIDERING THAT AS ONE OF THEM OR NOT.

Q: WASN'T THERE A LARGE AF BASE CLOSED IN PUERTO RICO?

A: YES, BUT THIS IS UP TO THE SERVICES TO COME BACK WITH WHAT THEY THINK THEY CAN HANDLE. THERE'S NO POINT IN OUR DISCUSSING IT AT THIS POINT. WAIT UNTIL THEY COME BACK.

Q: HOW ABOUT CAMP ATTERBURY?

A: THAT'S ANOTHER ONE.

Q: IS CHAFFEE A GOOD ONE? IS THERE JUST A SKELETON FORCE THERE?

A: IT'S AN INACTIVE POST IN WHICH WE KEEP A SMALL REGULAR ARMY CARETAKING CONTINGENT BECAUSE OF ALL THE USE THAT I MENTIONED BY THE RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD. FORT CHAFFEE HAPPENS TO BE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, I KNOW FROM HAVING BEEN THERE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5031 UNCLAS JUST EIGHT MONTHS AGO. I DON'T KNOW THE STATUS OF ANY OF THE OTHERS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO YOUR ASPHIXIATION BOMB STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY? DO YOU HAVE ANY NUMBERS? DID YOU SAY THAT THE CONCUSSION WOULD KILL PEOPLE AT 200 YARDS?

A: NO, I DID NOT. I SAID THE RADIUS OF EFFECT WAS 200 YARDS BUT IT WAS NOT AN ANTI-PERSONNEL WEAPON, SO WE DIDN'T GO INTO THAT. THE ONLY THING I FOUND OUT IN ADDITION TO THAT WAS THAT THE AEROSOL IS CALLED 'COMBUSTIBLE, ETHYLENE OXIDE' WHICH IS A KIND OF GASOLINE TYPE OF THING. WHAT IT DOES IS FORM A CLOUD OF VAPOR WHICH IS IGNITED AND THEN THE DOWN PRESSURE IS SUFFICIENT TO EXPLODE MINES AND BOOBYTRAPS. THE ACTUAL RADIUS EFFECT OF THE IGNITING PORTION IS ABOUT 50 FEET. SO THESE STORIES ABOUT IT BEING TERRIBLY WIDE AREA WEAPON IS JUST STRICTLY A LOT OF BALONEY. THIS IS, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, ABOUT A TWO HUNDRED YARD RADIUS OF TOTAL EFFECT AND THAT'S THE PRESSURE EFFECT.

Q: IS THE PENTAGON DENYING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE USED THIS?

A: NO, WE ARE NOT DENYING THE CHARGE THAT THEY'VE USED IT. WE ARE DENYING THE CHARGE THAT THIS IS AN INHUMAN, ILLEGAL WEAPON. PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5031 UNCLAS

Q: HAVE THEY USED IT?

A: I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND THAT

Q: THE CHARGE WAS THAT THEY USED IT AT XUAN LOC.

A: WHAT WE SAID YESTERDAY, REMEMBER, THAT IT WAS AVAILABLE AND IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THEY USED IT BUT IT IS NOT THE WEAPON THAT THEY CALL IT. THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN A HUGE AREA KILLING WEAPON AND THIS LITTLE THING.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)?

A: WE BOUTHT IN 1973 SOME 4800, TO BE GIVEN TO ALL OF THE SERVICES FOR FURTHER TESTS. MY UNDERSTANDING FROM THE AIR FORCE

IS THAT IT ISN'T WORTH MUCH. I DID NOT CHECK THE NAVY OR ARMY.

Q: WHY DID WE PRODUCE ONLY 650 UP TO FY 1973 -- (INAUDIBLE)?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q: HAS A DECISION BEEN MADE TO TRANSFER LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE TO CAMPS IN THIS COUNTRY OR IS STILL . . . .

A: IT'S ALL PLANNING; THERE'S BEEN NO FIRM DECISION.

Q: SO YOU'RE EXAMINING IT, THEY HAVEN'T SAID WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, NOW FIND US A SPOT?

A: EXACTLY, THEY HAVE NOT SAID THAT.

Q: IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE TYPE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE YOU ARE  
PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5031 UNCLAS  
FLYING OUT?

A: ASK STATE. THIS WAS COVERED IN A MESSAGE THAT THEY PUT OUT AS A RELEASE.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)?

A: I HAVE NO OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON THAT. I'VE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS. I KNOW OF NOTHING OFFICIAL.

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IN 19832/115/75 /ACK

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PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5205 1190352-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

ZNR UUUUU

RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 290348Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 5665

SECTION 1 OF 6

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING BY MGEN SIDLE, MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1975, 11:15 A.M.

1. ON THE HILL: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, MR. HALL, IS AT AN OPEN SESSION OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMY PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS. WE HAVE NO STATEMENT.

2. NO SPEECHES.

3. I NOTICED SEVEN OF YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT AWACS FLIGHT THIS MORNING. AT 2:00 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON THERE WILL BE A GROUND ORIENTATION WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO THE MEDIA. DETAILS AT THE AIR FORCE DESK.

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4. LAST NIGHT THE NORWEGIAN CHIEF OF DEFENSE, GENERAL HERMAN ZEINER GUNDERSEN, ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON. HE'S VISITING THE U.S. AS A GUEST OF GENERAL BROWN. THERE WILL BE AN ARRIVAL CEREMONY FOR HIM TOMORROW AT THE RIVER ENTRANCE AND THEN HE'S GOING TO PAY COURTESY CALLS ON THE SERVICE CHIEFS OF STAFF AND MR. ELLSWORTH, ASD (ISA). THEN HE'S GOING TO SEE SOME OF OUR INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

5. I KNOW YOU'RE ALL INTERESTED IN WHAT'S COMING OUT OF SAIGON AND I'M SORRY TO SAY I CAN'T GIVE YOU MUCH ON THAT. WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING INFORMATION THAT WE CAN RELY ON. WE DO KNOW THAT WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THERE WERE AT LEAST 4 - A 37'S THAT DID BOMB TAN SON NHUT. THEY DESTROYED SOME VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PLANES. NO U.S. THEY DESTROYED PART OF THE BASE OPS AREA. THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN THERE KNOW WHERE THAT IS. WHO FLEW THEM? WE DON'T KNOW. THE MOST RELIABLE REPORT WE HAVE IS THAT THERE ACTUALLY WEREN'T ANY U.S. AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ALTHOUGH ONE C 130 WAS DEFINITELY COMING IN AND HE WAS WAVED OFF AND RETURNED TO CLARK. THE AIR BASE WAS CLOSED AND THERE IS ONE REPORT IN JUST BEFORE I CAME IN THAT IT'S REOPENED AND ALSO

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5205 UNCLAS

ONE REPORT JUST BEFORE I CAME IN THAT IT WASN'T. SO I GIVE YOU THAT AND YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PICK. MY GUESS IS THAT IT'S

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PROBABLY REOPENED, BUT WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET.

THE RUMORS ABOUT STRAFING THE PALACE, WE CAN'T CONFIRM. THE REPORT WE HAVE ON THAT SAYS SPECIFICALLY THEY CAN'T CONFIRM IT. THE GUNFIRE HEARD DOWNTOWN IS ALSO IN THE SAME STATUS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SHOOTING IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT IT IS. AT THIS POINT. REMEMBER NOW, WE'RE DOWN NOW TO A MUCH SMALLER GROUP THAN WE WERE BEFORE AND IT'S A LITTLE HARDER TO GET THE INFORMATION OVER THERE.

Q: IS THE DAO OFFICE CLOSED?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW IT IS NOT CLOSED.

Q: IS IT CLOSING TODAY?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: HOW BIG IS IT NOW?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT FIGURE. I CAN GET THAT FOR YOU AFTER THE BRIEFING.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY ORDER AT ALL TO PULL THE REMAINING AMERICANS OUT -- JUST LEAVE TODAY?

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A: I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. I THINK THE ANSWER IS NO, NOT YET. AS YOU KNOW WE'RE THINNING DOWN AND HAVE BEEN FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS.

Q: IS THERE ANY CONFIRMATION TO THE REPORT THAT THE A 37S WERE CHASED BACK TO PHAN RANG?

A: NO CONFIRMATION OF THAT. IN FACT, NO CONFIRMATION THAT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH PHAN RANG EXCEPT A COUPLE OF PRESS STORIES. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OFFICIAL ON THAT AT ALL.

Q: WERE ANY A 37S CAPTURED ON SOME OF THE FIELDS THAT THEY (NORTH VIETNAMESE) TOOK?

A: YES, INDEED. A COUPLE OF DOZEN AT LEAST. SO YOU CAN BUILD A CASE EITHER WAY ON THIS, THAT'S THE THING THAT MAKES IT HARD TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION.

Q: HOW MANY AMERICANS LEFT IN SAIGON?

A: THE LATEST FIGURE WE HAVE AND WE'RE RUNNING ABOUT 12 HOURS BEHIND, WAS ABOUT 900. I THINK IT WAS 870. THAT'S A HAZY FIGURE BECAUSE IT CHANGES EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR, BUT THEY ARE GUARANTEED DOWN BELOW A THOUSAND THAT I KNOW.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR A MILITARY STYLE OF EVACUATION, IF THAT IS NECESSARY,

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5205 UNCLAS

THAT WE HAVE OUT THERE?

A: AFLOAT?

Q: YES.

A: NO CHANGE ON THE AFLOAT. AS YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT A NEW SQUADRON OF 130S OVER THERE THAT HAS ARRIVED AT CLARK AIR BASE.

Q: WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

A: THEY CAME FROM LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE IN LITTLE ROCK.

Q: A SQUADRON?

A: A SQUADRON BETWEEN 14 AND 16.

Q: COULD YOU GIVE US THE TOTAL OF AVAILABLE 130 AND 140 AIRCRAFT?

A: I'LL TAKE THAT. I CAN GET YOU THE TOTAL OF WHAT THEY'RE USING. OF COURSE, IT'S A GREAT NUMBER AVAILABLE.

Q: I MEAN WHAT'S AVAILABLE AT CLARK BEING USED RIGHT NOW.

A: OK. I'LL TAKE THAT. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT THIS MORNING THAT THEY'RE FLYING ONLY PROPELLERED AIRCRAFT INSTEAD OF JETS.

A: AS I UNDERSTAND THAT THEY'RE NOT FLYING ANYTHING AT THE MOMENT THAT WE CAN CONFIRM. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT INTO TAN SON PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5205 UNCLAS NHUT.

Q: IN OR OUT?

A: MY INFORMATION IS AND AGAIN I WANT TO DOUBLE CHECK IT, THAT THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: ARE THEY FLYING ANY C-5S?

A: NO C-TS, 130S ONLY.

Q: WHY IS THAT?

A: THEY ARE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO BEING SHOT DOWN, THAT'S THE MAIN REASON, AND WE HAD QUITE A BIT OF EXPERIENCE IN THAT.

Q: WHEN DID YOU TAKE THE 141S OUT?

A: THIS IS VERY RECENT.

Q: IS THAT THE REASON WHY THE ADDITIONAL C-130S WERE ORDERED?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT. THAT WAS NOT EVIDENT, BUT IT MAKES SENSE.

Q: IS THE MARINE LEVEL ABOUT 6,000?

A: THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD FIGURE.

Q: THERE'RE STILL FIVE CARRIERS, RIGHT?

A: FIVE CARRIERS. THESE ARE THE ONES WE TALKED ABOUT THE OTHER DAY. YOU KNOW WHEN THEY GET THEMSELVES INTO A CONFIGURATION WHERE YOU HAVE A BATTALION LANDING TEAM PLUS HELICOPTERS, IT BT

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IN 21556/119/75 /ACK

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5206 1190354-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR III CORPS FORT HOOD TX

P 290348Z APR 75 ZNZ1

FM SECDEF WASH DC

TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 5665

SECTION 2 OF 6

ADDS ABOUT 800. WE ARE RUNNING, YOU RECALL, AT ABOUT 4,000 AND IT WORKED ITS WAY UP TO 5,000. COUNTING ALL THESE OTHER FELLOWS, IT GETS UP CLOSE TO 6,000.

Q: ANY OF THE MARINES GONE ASHORE TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY GUARDS?

A: NO, WE SHIPPED IN THE 40 THAT WE TALKED ABOUT FRIDAY TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY GUARDS.

Q: WHAT'S THE TOTAL?

A: ABOUT 40 ADDITIONAL MARINES TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY GUARDS.

Q: THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THE PAPER THIS MORNING THAT ARE IN THE DAO?

A: THESE ARE THE ONLY MARINES THAT WE'VE SENT IN WERE THE 40 THAT I ANNOUNCED TO YOU ON FRIDAY, IT BRINGS THE TOTAL . . .

Q: SOME GUY IN SAIGON INTERVIEWED MARINES IN THE DAO

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5206 UNCLAS  
CAFETERIS.

A: THE DAO IS PART OF THE EMBASSY.

Q: I THINK YOU MENTIONED THE OTHER DAY THAT IF WE COULDN'T FLY INTO TAN SON NHUT THAT CONCEIVABLY WE WOULD USE HELICOPTERS GOING INTO DOWNTOWN OR SOME OTHER AREA, HAVE WE DONE ANY OF THAT AT ALL?

A: NO. YOU KNOW IF WORSE COMES TO WORSE THAT'S THE LAST THING TO DO.

Q: DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT IN LIGHT OF THE APPARENTLY CONFUSED BUT NEVERTHELESS DANGEROUS SITUATION IN SAIGON WHERE THERE'S BEEN SOME BOMBING AND SOME FIREING IN TOWN, THAT THERE WILL BE A SUBSTANTIAL PULL OUT OF THE REMAINING 870 OR SO AMERICANS TODAY?

A: I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT. THAT'S A DECISION THAT'S GOING TO BE MADE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

Q: OUR PEOPLE IN WIESBADEN WERE CONTACTED BY SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE NATO COMMAND AND WERE BRIEFED ON A DIRECTIVE ENTITLED MC-14-4 FROM THE MILIARY COMMITTEE DISCUSSING THE CHANGE OF NATO'S STRATEGY ALONG LINES OF THE SCHLESINGER DOCTRINE. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD GIVE ME ANYTHING ON THAT OR DIRECT

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ME TO WHERE I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT?

A, I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION. I HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THIS.

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Q: THE OTHER THING ALONG THOSE LINES THAT I'VE TALKED TO A COUPLE OF PEOPLE ABOUT HERE, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME BICKERING OR ARGUMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND, GERMANY IN PARTICULAR, COMMAND PEOPLE IN NATO AROUND THE IDEA OF LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR VERSUS THE OTHER STRATEGY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: AGAIN, LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION. AS YOU MAY RECALL, THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS OF THIS TYPE GOING ON BETWEEN THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF NATO FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER BUT I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING RECENT.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY GROUND FIRE AT TAN SON NHUT AT ANY OF THE AMERICAN PLANES?

Q: WE'VE HAD THE FIVE REPORTED INCIDENTS AND WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM ANY OF THEM.

Q: WHICH WERE THESE FIVE, I'M SORRY I MISSED THOSE?

A: THIS WAS SPREAD OUT OVER LAST WEEK. THERE WERE TWO ONE DAY AND THEN THERE WERE TWO ANOTHER DAY AND THERE WAS A LULL AND THEN THERE WAS ONE. I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT DATES, BUT WE CAN GET ALL THAT.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5206 UNCLAS

Q: ARE THERE 57S DOWN THERE?

A: NOT CONFIRMED? IT LOOKED LIKE 57 OR MAYBE EVEN SOMETHING LESS BUT WE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THEY WERE ACTUAL ATTACKS ON THE AIRCRAFT

Q: ANY DAMAGE?

A: NO DAMAGE ON ANY AIRCRAFT TO INCLUDE THIS MORNING.

Q: WAS THERE A 36-HOUR INTERRUPTION OF THE C-130 OPERATIONS THIS PAST WEEK BECAUSE OF THE GUAM FILLUP?

A: I UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INTERRUPTIONS OF C-130S INTO TAN SON NHUT.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT IN THE PAPER OVER THE WEEKEND.

A: THAT DID NOT APPEAR IN ANY OF OUR DOCUMENTS.

Q: IS THE REASON FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE C-141S FROM THE AIRLIFT THE FACT THAT SA-7S ARE NOW CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIT THEM?

A: THAT'S NOT THE REASON. THERE ARE PROBABLY TWO REASONS: I'M SPECULATING BUT IT MAKES SENSE. THE ISLAND HOPPING THAT'S GOING ON WITH THE REFUGEES IS BETTER DONE BY C-141S AND CHARTER AIRCRAFT BECAUSE THEY'RE LONGER LEGGED BY FAR THAN THE 130. THE 130 IS IDEAL FOR THE CLARK-TAN SON NHUT HOP NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT CAN MAKE THE ROUND TRIP WITHOUT REFUELING BUT BECAUSE

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5206 UNCLAS

IT'S ALSO LESS IMPERVIOUS TO ANY GROUND FIRE THAT MIGHT COME UP. THAT HASN'T HAPPENED YET EXCEPT IN THESE FIVE CASE I MENTIONED. BUT THE REAL REASON I'M NOT ACTUALLY AWARE OF. I CAN CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAVE TERMINATED, 141 OPERATIONS INTO TAN SON NHUT.

Q: WHEN WAS THAT DONE?

A: THAT'S VERY RECENT. OVER THE WEEKEND.

Q: THE SITUATION AROUND TAN SON NHUT HAS NOT DETERIORATED ANY? IT IS AT THE SAME LEVEL OF DANGER AS EARLY LAST YEAR?

A: YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY IT'S DETERIORATED BUT IT WASN'T

REALLY VERY GOOD TO START WITH.

Q: HAS THE AIRLIFT CONTINUED OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION UNDER THE FISCAL 75?

A: I'D HAVE TO TAKE THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT SAIGON IS COMPLETELY CUTOFF EXCEPT FOR TAN SON NHUT, NOW, ALL THE HIGHWAYS AROUND THE CITY?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION. THAT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING AT THIS POINT BUT I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW THAT THERE THEY'RE ALL CUT OFF. YOU'LL RECALL ON FRIDAY WE MENTIONED PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5206 UNCLAS THAT THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO CUT OFF ROUTE 15. I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT THAT WAS SUCCESSFUL BUT YOU COULD ESTIMATE THAT IT PROBABLY WAS BECAUSE IT WAS A LONG WAY DOWN FROM SAIGON, WHERE THEY WERE DOING IT.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BASES ARE THAT HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE REFUGEES?

A: AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK THIS PLANNING PROGRAM IS OBVIOUSLY GETTING CLOSE TO THE END AND 2 REALLY EXPECT WE'LL HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THAT TODAY. I DON'T HAVE IT NOW. (FYI: FORT CHAFFE, ARKANSAS; EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, AND CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA.

FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS WAS POSTED TODAY, APRIL 28, 1975,

THREE MILITARY BASES IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE AS RECEPTION CENTERS FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES.

THE BASES SELECTED AS TEMPORARY HOUSING SITES ARE EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA; FORT CHAFFE, ARKANSAS; AND THE MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA. THE BASES WILL BE USED FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES FOR UP TO 90 DAYS OR MORE. EACH BASE MAY HANDLE UP TO 20,000 REFUGEES.

BT

#5206

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IN 21559/119/75 /ACK



119 0438752

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5207 1190356-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

ZNR UUUUU

RUCLBFA T CDR 1ST CAVALRY DIV FORT HOOD TX

RUCLBFA T CDR 2ND ARMORED DIV FORT HOOD TX

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TO AIG 8799

AIG 8798

BT

UNCLAS 5665

SECTION 3 OF 6

REFUGEES GOING TO EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE WILL ARRIVE AT EGLIN:

THOSE GOING TO FORT CHAFFEE WILL ARRIVE AT LITTLE ROCK AIR  
FORCE BASE AND THOSE GOING TO CAMP PENDLETON WILL ARRIVE AT  
THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, EL TORO, CALIFORNIA.MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO THESE BASES IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN  
WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS IN ORDER TO REDUCE LARGE BUILDUPS  
OF REFUGEES AT U.S. BASES IN THE PACIFIC.

Q: WHAT'S THE STATUS OF VUNG TAU NOW?

A: VUNG TAU IS THREATENED, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT. IT STILL  
HAS NOT YET BEEN ATTACKED BUT WE DO KNOW THAT THE ENEMY'S  
IN A GOOD POSITION TO ATTACK IT.Q: LET ME ASK THIS ABOUT VUNG TAU ARE ALL THE ROADS TO  
VUNG TAU CUT?A: ACTUALLY ROUTE 15 WAS THE ONLY ROAD LEFT OPEN AND IF  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5207 UNCLAS  
THAT'S BEEN CUT THEN THEY ARE BUT I CAN'T VOUCH FOR THE FACT THAT  
IT'S CUT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE SAIGON RIVER?

A: THAT'S NOT CUT, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S CUTABLE.

Q: IS ANY TRAFFIC MOVING DOWN THE RIVER?

A: NO U.S. TRAFFIC. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

Q: ARE THERE STILL THREE U.S. SHIPS IN SAIGON?

A: NO. FRIDAY, WE ANNOUNCED THEIR DEPARTURE AND I WANT TO  
APOLOGIZE ON THAT. INCIDENTLY, I WAS INFORMED THAT THERE WERE  
NO REFUGEES ABOARD ANY OF THOSE SHIPS. TURNS OUT THERE WERE  
675 ON BOARD ONE OF THEM, THE OTHER TWO WERE, IN FACT, WITHOUT  
REFUGEES.

Q: SO THERE'S NO U.S. SHIPPING IN SAIGON?

A: NO U.S. SHIPPING IN SAIGON.

Q: THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TAKE PEOPLE FROM SAIGON OUT TO  
VUNG TAU BY WATER?A: NOT ON U.S. BOTTOMS. WE COULD MOVE THEM BACK IN, OF  
COURSE, THERE'S ALWAYS THAT OPTION, WE DON'T HAVE ANY THERE.

Q: ARE WE TAKING REFUGEES FROM VUNG TAU?

A: THERE'S ONE SHIPLOAD FROM VUNG TAU THAT WENT TO PHU  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5207 UNCLAS

QUOC OVER THE WEEKEND ON BOARD A U.S. CHARTER.

Q: IS THIS THE ONE THAT WENT FROM SAIGON OR DID IT TAKE

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ON ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS?

A: NO, I CAN GET YOU THE NAME. THE AMERICAN CHALLENGER LOADED APPROXIMATELY 8,600 REFUGEES FROM THE VUNG TAU AREA AND SAILED FOR PHU QUOC AND SHOULD BE THERE BY NOW.

Q: WHEN WAS THAT?

A: IT WAS OVER THE WEEKEND, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE THE DATE, IT WAS EITHER SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

Q: LAST WEEK THERE WERE A TOTAL OF FIVE, SIX OR SEVEN, DEPENDING ON WHO YOU LISTENED TO, MERCHANT SHIPS THAT WERE IN SAIGON AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK AND THEN ALL LEFT. THIS 675 IS THE TOTAL TAKEN OUT?

A: THEY WENT OUT ON ONE CALLED THE GREEN WAVE AND THAT WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT TOOK REFUELS. REMEMBER FRIDAY I WAS GOING TO CHECK ONE OF THEM, TURNS OUT I CHECKED THE WRONG ONE BECAUSE THE GREEN WAVE WAS ONE THAT WE THOUGHT WAS EMPTY BUT HAD 675 ABOARD.

Q: THE SHIPS THAT WERE IN EARLIER IN THE WEEK AND LEFT EARLIER IN THE WEEK, DID NOT CARRY REFUGEES?

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5207 UNCLAS

A: THE GREEN WAVE WAS ONE OF THE SIX AND THAT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT CARRIED REFUGEES.

Q: THESE ARE THE FIRST SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES EVACUATED BY SEA?

A: EVACUATED FROM SAIGON.

Q: I MEAN THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM SOUTH VIETNAM ABOARD SHIPS.

A: YOU MEAN COMING OUT FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, YES, THAT'S CORRECT.

Q: ARE THOSE SHIPS STILL STANDING OFF OF VUNG TAU.

A: THAT'S CORRECT.

Q: HOW MANY?

A: THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY CHANGE FROM THE FIGURE I GAVE YOU LAST WEEK, 10 OR 11. ONE OF THEM IS DOWN IN PHU QUOC AND ONE'S GONG TO SUBIC SO IT WOULD BE NINE LOGICALLY. I COUNT NINE STANDING REASONABLY NEAR VUNG TAU.

Q: WHAT'S THE DELAY, THESE SHIPS HAVE BEEN STANDING THERE FOR SOMETIME?

A: I CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q: THERE'VE BEEN FIVE SHIPS THERE FOR ABOUT A WEEK, ARE WE PROCESSING, ARE WE SELECTING THE REFUGEES?

A: I CANNOT ANSWER THAT.

Q: YOU SAID YOU HAD 200,000 REFUGEES IN THE CITY.

A: YOU'RE MAKING A LOT OF ASSUMPTIONS I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THEY'RE TRUE OR NOT IN ANY CASE I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION. IF YOU'LL RECALL THE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WAS THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF REFUGEES WOULD BE AUTHORIZED FOR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES AND I PRESUME THAT THIS TYPE WAS NOT PRESENT IN LARGE NUMBERS IN VUNG TAU.

Q: ABOUT HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE THERE ON PHU QUOC AND WHAT'S HAPPENED? ARE THEY JUST PILING UP THERE OR WHAT?

A: I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT I DON'T REMEMBER THE NUMBER. PHU QUOC OF COURSE WAS DESIGNATED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AS A RELOCATION SITE BUT I THINK I CAN GET A NUMBER ON THAT.

Q: HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY REACTION FROM THE POPULACE AROUND THESE BASES THAT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR RECEPTION CENTERS? HAS DOD GOTTEN ANY COMPLAINTS?

A: I DON'T THINK THAT THEY'VE HAD TIME TO REACT BECAUSE  
PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5207 UNCLAS  
THERE'S BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO WHICH ONES ARE BEING OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED. YOU MAY RECALL THERE WAS A THING IN CALIFORNIA I'M REALLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH, BUT THAT WAS IN GENERAL TERMS.

Q: YOU LISTED A FEW THAT BECAME OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED AS OF THE TIME YOU LISTED THEM.

A: I WAS LISTING ONES THAT WOULD FIT THE BILL, BUT I REMEMBER I MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THIS WAS JUST EXAMPLES. I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT BECAUSE EVERYBODY THINKS THAT'S OFFICIAL AND IT'S NOT OFFICIAL AND I SAID IT WASN'T OFFICIAL AT THE TIME.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, BECAUSE EVERYBODY THINKS THAT'S OFFICIAL. IT'S NOT OFFICIAL.

Q: THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF BAD REACTION FROM PEOPLE OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, ABOUT THE USE OF CHAFFEE. WOULD THAT HAVE ANY DIRECT BEARING ON WHAT BASES WOULD BE USED AND WOULD NOT BE USED?

A: I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE BAD REACTION. THE NEWSMEN THAT I TALKED TO FROM THERE DID NOT INDICATE THAT. I'M NOT SAYING IT ISN'T TRUE, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

Q: IS THERE ANY SORT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT IN THE  
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IN 21564/119/75 /ACK

119 04 3875Z

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5208 1190357-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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BUILDING TO FROM THERE DID NOT INDICATE THAT. I'M NOT SAYING IT ISN'T TRUE, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

Q: IS THERE ANY SORT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT IN THE BUILDING EITHER FROM SAIGON OR OUR OWN MILITARY EXPERTS, ON WHAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MIGHT DO? IS THERE A FEELING THEY WANT TO ATTACK SAIGON, THEY WANT A MILITARY VICTORY OR . . .

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT. WE, OF COURSE, DON'T COME UP WITH AN OFFICIAL PROJECTION ON THAT.

Q: BASED ON INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS OF THE FRAGMENTS OF THE ROCKETS THAT HIT TAN SON NHUT, ANY ESTIMATE AS TO WHAT KIND OF ROCKETS THEY WERE? WHAT DISTANCE THEY WERE FIRED FROM?

A: I CAN GET THAT. I DON'T HAVE IT, BUT I'M SURE WE DO HAVE THAT.

Q: . . . ARTILLERY SHELLS?

PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5208 UNCLAS

A: NO, IT WAS LISTED AS ROCKETS.

Q: DID IT SURPRISE ANYBODY THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE ABLE TO FLY IN THE A-37S SO QUICKLY?

A: THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THESE ARE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

Q: ARE THE AMERICANS IN SAIGON SAFE?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT EITHER.

Q: YOU SAID THEY WERE NOT FROM PHAN RANG.

A: I SAID, WE DIDN'T KNOW.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE COME FROM?

A: IT'S GOING TO DEPEND ON WHO WAS FLYING THEM.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION WHICH INDICATES WHAT DIRECTION THEY CAME FROM?

A: IF WE DO, WE'D HAVE A BETTER FEEL FOR IT. WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION.

Q: ANY MARKINGS ON THE PLANES AT ALL?

A: THEY WERE MARKS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE, BUT YOU KNOW IF THEY TOOK SOME OF THOSE PLANES THAT THEY CAPTURED UP NORTH, THEY PROBABLY WOULD CHANGE THE MARKINGS.

Q: WHAT'S THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING MONDAY AS COMPARED TO . . .

A: IT'S UP.

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Q: UP OVER YESTERDAY?

A: YESTERDAY, ALSO WAS THE SAME AS TODAY. MUCH HEAVIER

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THAN LAST WEEK.

Q: WHAT ARE THE CLOSEST NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS TO SAIGON?

A: THEY'RE CLOSER. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC FIGURE. WHAT'S HAPPENING, OF COURSE, IS AS ALWAYS. SOME SMALLER UNITS ARE GETTING IN CLOSER THAN THE LARGER UNITS AND THE REPORTS WE HAVE DON'T MAKE THAT VERY CLEAR JUST HOW CLOSE ANYBODY IS. ONE REPORT TALKED ABOUT THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAIGON, BUT YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT A VERY DEFINITIVE TERM. WE DO KNOW THAT THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT ATTACKS ARE IMMINENT ON BIEN HOA AND LONG BIEN, PROBABLY TAN AN DOWN IN THE SOUTH. TAY NINH IS UNDER ATTACK TODAY.

Q: WHEN YOU ADD IT ALL UP, IS THIS THE PUSH?

A: WE CAN'T BE SURE YET. IT'S THE SAME OLD THING. IT'S LOOKING MORE LIKE IT, BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE YET IF THIS IS ANOTHER LUNGE OR WHETHER THEY'RE JUST GOING TO TRY TO KEEP GOING.

Q: LAST WEEK I THINK YOU INDICATED THAT AN ATTACK COULD COME ON SAIGON AT ANY MINUTES. IS THERE ANY MORE IMMINENCE IN THE PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5208 UNCLAS

PENDING ATTACK ON BIEN HOA, LONG BIEN, THAN THERE WAS LAST WEEK?

A: IT'S CERTAINLY MORE IMMINENCE ON THE ATTACK ON LONG BIEN, AND BIEN HOA. IN THE CONTEXT THAT YOU'RE ASKING THE QUESTION, YES.

Q: WHAT ARE THE SIGNS THAT IT'S IMMINENT? HOW DO WE KNOW THAT?

A: BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE SURROUNDINGS. THERE'S A GREAT INCREASE IN PROBES: THE ATTACKS BY FIRE, BIEN HOA REPORTED A THOUSAND ROUNDS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF ROUNDS, BUT A THOUSAND ROUNDS YESTERDAY.

Q: ON THE AIR BASE OR IN THE TOWN?

A: IN THE AREA. THEY DIDN'T SPECIFY.

Q: IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE AMERICANS ARE SAFE OR NOT, WHY AREN'T THEY BEING TAKEN OUT?

A: THIS IS A QUESTION THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THIS IS A DECISION MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR, AS YOU KNOW, AND I JUST CAN'T ANSWER THAT.

Q: IS THIS THE FIRST INTELLIGENCE YOU'VE HAD THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARE FLYING THESE A-37S AROUND OCCUPIED TERRITORY?

A: OF COURSE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE A-37S.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT THE ONES THAT WERE CAPTURED, I THINK, PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5208 UNCLAS  
WE ADMIT THAT WE'RE RUNNING RECONNAISSANCE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM, RIGHT?

A: UNARMED.

Q: THE FIRST INTELLIGENCE WE HAVE THAT THOSE FIELDS, I'M SURE THEY'VE KEPT THEM UNDER SURVEILLANCE, HAVE BEEN FLYING THOSE PLANES, TEST FLIGHTS OR ORIENTATION FLIGHTS?

A: SHOULD THESE TURN OUT TO BE PILOTED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE, THAT'S GOING TO BE ONE CASE. THERE WERE SOME REPORTS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE PLAYING AROUND WITH THE A-37S IN SOME UNKNOWN FASHION. I REGRET THAT I CAN'T REALLY ANSWER THAT

FACTUALLY. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS TRUE OR NOT.

Q: WHAT AIRFIELD WAS THIS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE PLAYING AROUND IT?

A: THE DANANG AREA.

Q: WHAT DO YOU MEAN PLAYING AROUND?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN, THAT'S WHY I USED THOSE WORDS. THIS IS A VERY HAZY REPORT AND I JUST CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING OF IT BECAUSE OUR INFORMATION ISN'T THAT GOOD.

Q: FLYING THEM OR ON THE GROUND OR. . . .

A: TAXIING THEM UP AND DOWN AND THAT SORT OF THING. THE PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5208 UNCLAS  
BEST ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS OR NOT.

Q: WHERE DID THE HAZY REPORT COME FROM?

A: THESE COME OUT OF A MIXTURE OF SOURCES, I'M REALLY NOT ABLE TO SAY.

Q: WHEN WAS IT?

A: LAST WEEK.

Q: WAS IT THROUGH ANY SORT OF AERIAL SURVEILLANCE THAT WE DETERMINED THIS?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q: HAVE WE CONFIRMED OR SOLIDIFIED THE FIGURE OF HOW MANY AIRCRAFT THEY TOOK THAT WERE INTACT THAT MIGHT BE USED FOR ATTACK ON SAIGON?

A: WE DON'T HAVE A FIRM FIGURE. I THINK PROBABLY I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE PRETTY QUICKLY ON THE TOTAL NUMBER INVOLVED, BUT HOW MANY ARE FLYABLE, THIS IS WHERE WE DON'T KNOW.

Q: DO WE KNOW HOW MANY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WENT BACK AND DESTROYED?

A: NO, THAT'S ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WHY WE CAN'T ANSWER THE

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IN 21567/119/75 /ACK

119 0438752

PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5209 1190400-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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SECTION 5 OF 6

OTHER QUESTION.

Q: AS A MILITARY MAN, CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR JUDGMENT BASED UPON THE INFORMATION REACHING THE PENTAGON ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SAIGON: YOUR JUDGMENT WHETHER OR NOT THE REMAINING AMERICANS THERE SHOULD BE TAKEN OUT, FROM A MILITARY VIEW POINT, WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO?

A: I REALLY CAN'T DO THAT BECAUSE THIS JUST ISN'T MY AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT ISN'T EVEN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, IT'S STATE. I CAN GIVE YOU A JUDGMENT BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS AS AN INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE IT'S NOT ANY OF MY BUSINESS.

Q: NOW THAT THE PLANES ARE BOMBING THE AIRPORT, WHETHER NORTH VIETNAMESE OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE, THERE'S A DANGER OF ATTACK UPON ANY OF OUR AIRCRAFT GOING INTO TAKE OUT AMERICANS, PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5209 UNCLAS

WOULD WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE FIGHTER ESCORT FOR ANY AIRCRAFT THAT WILL BE CALLED IN TO TAKE OUT ANY AMERICANS NOW?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WHEN THE EVACUATION, AS SUCH, IS ORDERED, THAT THE ANSWER TO THAT IS YES.

Q: COULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONS THAT THE NVA HAS VERSUS. . . .

A: IT'S GONE UP TO 15.

Q: YOU HAD IT UP AS HIGH AS 16.

A: NO, REMEMBER WE SAID 14 AND I MENTIONED THE OTHER AGENCIES WERE THINKING THAT MAYBE IT HAD GONE TO 15 OR 16, NOW THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IS THAT IT'S 15.

Q: IN MR III?

A: AROUND SAIGON, YES.

Q: DID YOU SUGGEST OR SAY THAT AN ATTACK ON SAIGON WAS IMMINENT?

A: NO, THE QUESTION WAS WHEN DID I THINK IT WOULD TAKE PLACE AND I SAID IT COULD TAKE PLACE ANYTIME FROM NOW. . . .

Q: HE SAID WHY DO YOU THINK THAT ATTACK WAS IMMINENT?

A: WE WERE TALKING THEN ABOUT BIEN HOA AND LONG BIEN.

Q: THE NEW DIVISION CAME FROM WHERE?

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5209 UNCLAS

A: IT CAME FROM THE NORTH?

Q: CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT?

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A: I WILL BUT I DON'T HAVE THE NUMBER RIGHT NOW.

Q: IN VIEW CONGRESS HASN'T PASSED THE LEGISLATION GIVING YOU AUTHORITY TO USE TROOPS IN THE EVACUATION EFFORT, WHERE WOULD YOU GET YOUR AUTHORITY TO USE AIR COVER?

A: THE QUESTION I WAS ADDRESSING WAS THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS. WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY FOR THAT.

Q: WHAT IMPACT HAS THE CONGRESSIONAL FAILURE THUS FAR TO PASS THE AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION HAD UP ; YOUR EVACUATION PLANS?

A: I DON'T THINK IT'S HAD ANY BECAUSE WE HADN'T GOTTEN INTO POSITION WHERE THIS WOULD COME INTO PLAY.

Q: WHO MAKES THAT DECISION TO EVACUATE?

A: THE AMBASSADOR IS THE KEY MAN.

Q: HOW MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAVE WE TAKEN OUT?

A: AS OF THIS MORNING IT'S AROUND 40,000, PROBABLY A LITTLE OVER THAT. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT FIGURE.

Q: COULD YOU GET US A BREAKDOWN OF WHERE THEY ARE?

A: NO, BUT THERE ARE ABOUT 20,000 ON GUAM. I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION.

PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5209 UNCLAS

Q PLUS HOW MANY AMERICANS?

A: ABOUT 7,000 ROUGHLY.

Q: THAT INCLUDES THE 678 THAT LEFT VUNG TAU AND WENT TO SUBIC?

A: THAT INCLUDES EVERYBODY.

Q: IF AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE MADE OF A TOTAL EVACUATION, WOULD YOU ANTICIPATE THAT IT WOULD COME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE OR STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: I WOULD ANTICIPATE FROM STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q: WHERE WOULD THE REFUGEES FROM PHU QUOC GO?

A: I DON'T KNOW; THAT'S A SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROBLEM.

THEY WERE EVACUATED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T RELATIVES OR WORKED FOR THE U.S.

A: YOU'LL RECALL THESE ARE PEOPLE THAT CAME MOSTLY OUT OF THE NORTH.

Q: I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ONES THAT YOU TOOK THIS WEEKEND FROM VUNG TAU TO PHU CHOC?

A: THIS IS THE SAME CATEGORY THAT WE TOOK TO PHU CHOC IN THE FIRST PLACE. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM THE NORTH, MAYBE NOT AS FAR NORTH, THEY ARE REFUGEES COMING DOWN SOUTH. THEY ARE NOT

PAGE 5 RUEKJCS 5209 UNCLAS  
IN OUR CATEGORY.

Q: THEY WILL NOT BE GOING TO TO THE U.S.?

A: THEY WILL NOT.

Q: ARE MOST OF THE HIGH RISK VIETNAMESE NOW OUT OF SAIGON?

A: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FIGURE IS. YOU RECALL THE ESTIMATES ON THE HIGH RISK CATEGORY ARE PRETTY WIDE. I DON'T KNOW WHO WOULD KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BUT WE CERTAINLY DON'T HERE IN DEFENSE.

Q: I THOUGHT YOU SAID TO AN EARLIER QUESTION THAT SHIPS WEREN'T TAKING MORE BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ANY LARGE NUMBERS



LEFT?

A: NO, I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I SAID I DIDN'T KNOW.

Q: WOULD YOU PLEASE NOTIFY US WHEN GENERAL HOMER SMITH, DAO, LEAVES SAIGON, IF HE HASN'T ALREADY LEFT SAIGON?

A: HE HAS NOT LEFT. WE'LL NOTIFY YOU AS SOON AS WE CAN. REMEMBER THIS IS A STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Q: BUT HE'S YOUR MAN?

A: YES, BUT HE'S WORKING FOR STATE.

Q: HAVE THE CARRIERS BEEN MOVED IN CLOSER TO SHORE OR ARE PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5209 UNCLAS THEY BEING MOVED IN CLOSER?

A: NO, THERE'S BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE DISPOSITION ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION I HAVE. LOOKS ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE.

Q: NO CHANGE IN NUMBERS?

A: NO CHANGE IN NUMBERS.

Q: NO NEW SHIPS?

A: NO NEW SHIPS.

Q: ABOUT 40 SHIPS?

A: A LITTLE OVER 40 SHIPS.

Q: WHAT ABOUT HELICOPTERS?

A: THE SAME AS BEFORE -- 70 ODD.

Q: WHAT'S THE COST OF THE OPERATION?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT. THAT WILL TAKE A WHILE. YOU KNOW, HOW DO YOU COST IT. YOU CAN TAKE IT TWO WAYS -- ONE YOU'RE PAYING A SAILOR FOR SAILING AROUND ON SHIP WHETHER HE'S OUT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA OR THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. IT'S NO EASY THING TO COST. YOU HAVE TO FIGURE WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS.

Q: YOU SAY YOU HEARD A REPORT THAT TON SON NHUT MAY BE OPEN?

A: RIGHT.

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IN 21570/119/75 /ACK

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PATUZYUW RUEKJCS5210 1190402-UUUU--RUEOFIA.

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UNCLAS 5665

SECTION 6 OF 6

Q: CAN WE AUTOMAITICALLY INFER THAT IF TAN SON NHUT IS TECH-  
NICALLY OPEN, U.S. C-130S WILL BE FLYING IN?

A: I THINK THAT WOULD BE VERY SAFE.

Q: THE PROGRAM HS NOT BEEN SUSPENDED IN ANY WAY?

A: IT'S NOT BEEN SUSPENDED.

Q: IS THERE A DIMINISHED EVACUATION CAPACITY BY USING ONLY  
C-130S VERSUS 141S OR C-5S?

A: PROBABLY, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE VERY SIGNI-  
FICANT BECAUSE WE'VE GOT MORE C-130S NOW.

Q: YOU WOULD KNOW WHETHER C-130S NOW ARE GOING -- STILL  
GOING IN.

A: IT TAKES US A LITTLE WHILE TO HEAR, BUT WE WILL KNOW --  
YES WE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU IF IT'S OPEN.

Q: I THOUGHT YOU SAID EARLY ON THAT AS OF NOW THEY WEREN'T  
PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5210 UNCLAS  
GOING IN?

A: I SAID I HAD TWO CONFLICTING REPORTS. . . .

Q: I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT THE C-130S, EVEN THOUGH THESE  
WERE CONFLICTING REPORTS. . . .

A: I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT BECAUSE IF IT OPENS UP THEY'D  
BE GOING I'M SURE OF THAT. THERE'S BEEN NO ORDER TO CANCEL,  
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING?

Q: WHAT ABOUT AN ORDER TO SUSPEND?

A: THAT'S A DIFFERENT THING BECAUSE IF THE AIR BASE IS CLOSED  
THEN YOU CAN'T FLY INTO IT, THAT'S A DIFFERENT SET OF CIRCUM-  
STANCES.

Q: WAS THERE AN ORDER TO SUSPEND THE AIRLIFT THIS MORNING?

A: THE AIR BASE WAS CLOSED, YES, AND THAT AUTOMATICALLY  
SUSPENDED THE FLIGHTS.

Q: DO WE HAVE THE MILITARY CAPABILITY AS THE MATTER STANDS  
RIGHT NOW, TO GET ALL THE AMERICANS OUT SAFELY?

A: YES, LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY, IF WORSE COMES TO WORSE. AND  
WE HAVE TO GO IN WITH HELICOPTERS TO GET THEM, WE HAVE ENOUGH  
HELICOPTERS TO DO IT.

Q: THAT'S NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE QUESTION.

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5210 UNCLAS

A: THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO, I T4INK IT'S RESPONSIVE.

Q: YOU HAVE ENOUGH OF OTHER THINGS, LIKE MARINES?

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A: WE'VE ANSWERED THIS QUESTION ABOUT 10 TIMES BUT IT'S GOING TO DEPEND ON THE SITUATION, BUT WE DO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO IT, YES. YOU CAN CERTAINLY VISUALIZE A SITUATION WHERE IT MIGHT BE VERY DIFFICULT.

Q: THAT INCLUDES AIR COVER AND MEN ON THE GROUND?

A: THAT WOULD COVER THE WHOLE BIT.

Q: WE ARE NOT NOW PROVIDING AIR COVER FOR ANY FLIGHTS.

A: IT WOULD TAKE US INTO VIETNAM WHERE WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO WITHOUT ONE OF TWO THINGS HAPPENING. ONE WE'D HAVE TO CONSULT THE CONGRESS. IF THE FINAL EVACUATION IS ORDERED THEN WE HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO THIS TO RESCUE AMERICANS.

Q: THAT'S ONLY THE FINAL EVACUATION?

A: RIGHT.

NOW IF WE WANTED TO SEND THEM IN UNDER THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF COURSE THIS WOULD BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

Q: WHAT IS THE GENERAL DISTANCE FROM THE SHIPS INTO SAIGON FOR HELICOPTER FLIGHTS?

A: ABOUT 100 MILES -- A LITTLE LESS IN SOME CASES, A LITTLE MORE IN OTHERS.

Q: THE PRESENT INTENTION, IF YOU HAVE TO GO TO A HELIBOPERT EVACUATION, WOULD BE FROM THE CARRIERS, INTO SAIGON, BACK TO THE CARRIERS.

A: I REALLY WOULDN'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT BUT THE LOGIC IS ALMOST UNASSAILABLE. WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GO INTO DETAILS.

Q: WHAT WAS THE DISTANCE FROM THE CARRIERS IN THE GULF OF SIAM INTO PHNOM PENH?

A: ABOUT THE SAME. I THINK THE SHORTEST FLIGHT THERE WAS CLOSER TO 80 MILES.

Q: HAS GENERAL KY FLOWN OUT ON A C-130 OR 141?

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON GENERAL KY AT ALL.

Q: HOW ABOUT HIS FAMILY?

A: I'LL CHECK THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: THERE'S A REPORT . . . .

A: I SAW THAT REPORT BUT IT WAS NOT CONFIRMED. OF COURSE, SHE UNDOUBTEDLY FIT INTO THE CATEGORY, BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN ANYTHING OFFICIAL ON THAT.

Q: CAN YOU DETAIL THE FIGHTING AT TAY NINH RIGHT NOW? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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A: IT'S UNDER GROUND ATTACK.

Q: BY HOW MANY DIVISIONS AND. . . .

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT, SIZEABLE IS THE WORD WE GOT.

Q: ARTILLERY INTO THE TOWN?

A: ARTILLERY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND AN INFANTRY ATTACK?

Q: IS THE INFANTRY IN THE TOWN?

A: NO REPORT THAT THEY'RE IN THE TOWN BUT THAT THEY ARE ATTACKING.

Q: IS IT HOLDING?

A: HOLDING AS OF THE LAST REPORT.

Q: IS THAT THE ONLY PLACE THAT THERE'S A SIZEABLE ATTACK?

A: AT THE MOMENT.

Q: HOW MANY GOVERNMENT TROOPS WERE AT TAY NINH , DO YOU KNOW?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q: HAVEN'T THEY REMOVED THE ARVN DIVISION?

A: IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ARVN 25TH DIVISION HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THERE BUT THAT LEFT BEHIND TERRITORIAL FORCES AND POSSIBLY A COUPLE OF RANGER GROUPS. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER.

Q: CAN I MAKE THE REQUEST THAT IF AND WHEN WE GET INTO THIS PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5210 UNCLAS EVACUATION WHICH I EXPECT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COVER IN LARGE MEASURE OUT OF WASHINGTON, THAT THE PENTAGON BE READY WITH THE INFORMATION OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE OPERATION.

A: WE'RE PREPARED TO DO OUR BEST.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THE SA-7S BEFORE, ARE THE SA-2S BEING MOVED IN?

A: NOTHING NEW ON THAT, I DID CHECK THAT THIS MORNING.

Q: WHY ARE THE C-130S LESS SUSCEPTIBLE -- THEY CAN TAKE OFF WITH SHORTER. . . .

A: LET ME TAKE THAT, I'M NOT AN AIR FORCE OFFICER, I DON'T KNOW. I DO KNOW THAT THEIR ENGINES ARE HARDER TO PUT OUT OF COMMISSION AND THAT MAY BE THE ANSWER BUT LET ME TAKE THAT.

Q: HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO FLY AN A-37, IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT A NORTH VIETNAMESE PILOT WITHOUT ANY TRAINING FROM THE UNITED STATES COULD FLY ONE OF THOSE AIRPLANES?

A: I'M SURE IT'S CONCEIVABLE. I BETTER TAKE THAT QUESTION.

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SECTION 1 OF 5

FROM OASD/PA

FOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

SUBJECT: DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING

PART I: THERE WAS NO DOD MORNING NEWS BRIEFING.

PART II: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER MET WITH NEWSMEN AT THE PENTAGON, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1975,

TRANSCRIPT FOLLOWS:

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER: GENTLEMEN, I AM PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE EVACUATION FROM VIETNAM.

FIRST, I SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT IN THE DIVISENESS THAT HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THIS WAR, THAT MANY OF THE MEN WHO FOUGHT THERE HAVE CONSIDERED IT TO BE A THANKLESS TASK. I SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THEIR ACTIONS AND THEIR VALOR ARE APPRECIATED BY TH PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THAT WE EXTEND TO THEM

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OUR THANKS IN THIS THANKLESS TASK.

I DISPATCHED A MESSAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES THE OTHER DAY AND I SHALL READ A PART OF IT.

'FOR MANY OF YOU THE TRAGEDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IS MORE THAN A DISTANT AND ABSTRACT EVENT. YOU FOUGHT THERE, YOU HAVE LOST COMRADES THERE, YOU HAVE SUFFERED THERE. IN THIS PERIOD OF REFLECTION YOU MAY FEEL THAT YOUR EFFORTS AND SACRIFICES HAVE GONE FOR NAUGHT. THAT IS NOT THE CASE. WHEN THE PASSIONS HAVE MUTED AND THE HISTORY IS WRITTEN, AMERICANS WILL RECALL THAT THEIR ARMED FORCES SERVED THEM WELL. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER BEFORE FACED BY OUR MILITARY SERVICES, YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION ASSIGNED TO YOU BY HIGHER AUTHORITY.'

IN THIS LAST EXERCISE, ONCE AGAIN I BELIEVE THE ARMED FORCES HAVE RESONSED MAGNIFICENTLY TO THE TASKS THAT WERE GIVEN TO THEM. THEY PERFORMED HEROICALLY UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

I WILL NOT GO INTO ANY GREAT DETAIL. THE AIR FORCE OPERATING FROM THAILAND, THE NAVY OFF THE COAST, THE MARINES BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE HELICOPTERS AS WELL AS AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS ALL PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY. THEY PERFORMED UNDER DIFFICULT CON-

PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5588 UNCLAS

DITIONS. AMONG THOSE THAT I SHOULD LIKE TO SINGLE OUT ARE THE HELICOPTER PILOTS. THIS WAS THE MOST MASSIVE HELICOPTER EVAC-

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UATION IN HISTORY, FAR LARGER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. SOME 638 HELICOPTER SORTIES WERE FLOWN ONCE AGAIN UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. THE CHOPPER PILOTS FROM THE START OF THE MISSION TO THE CLOSE OF THE MISSION, WORKED FOR 20 HOURS. FROM THE FIRST ALERT IT WAS 27 HOURS. AFTER DARKNESS FELL IN SAIGON AND A NUMBER OF LANDING SITES AT THE EMBASSY WAS REDUCED, THEY WERE FORCED TO THREAT THEIR WAY, WITH OCCASIONAL FIRE, DOWN TO THE EMBASSY AND TO SET DOWN ON THE RESTRICTED LAND SITES UNDER DARNES AND IN POOR WEATHER. THEY EXTRACTED ALL THAT THEY WERE REQUIRED TO EXTRACT, AND TO THEM I THINK WE OWE A PARTICULAR TRIBUTE.

Q: THERE'VE BEEN REPORTS, MR. SECRETARY, THAT YOU WERE UNHAPPY AT THE PACE OF THE EVACUATION WHILE IT WAS UNDERWAY AND THAT YOU TRIED TO GET THE AMBASSADOR TO SPEED IT UP IN FAIRLY STRONG LANGUAGE. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT?

A: WELL, THE EVACUATION PROCEEDED MORE SLOWLY AT THE EMBASSY THAN WE WOULD HAVE WISHED. IT WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE FALL OF NIGHT, THE RESTRICTION IN THE LANDING ZONES; THE DIFFICULTY  
PAGE 4 RUEKJCS 5588 UNCLAS

OF LANDING CHOPPERS, AS WELL AS THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAD TO BE EXTRICATED FROM THE EMBASSY. NATURALLY, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DID NOT WANT THE OPERATION TO CONTINUE WITHOUT LIMIT AND WE MADE ATTEMPTS TO EXPEDITE IT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHERE THE SHIPS ARE, THAT TASK FORCE, AND ARE THEY LEAVING?

A: I BELIEVE ALL THE SHIPS HAVE DEPARTED FROM THE COAST AT THIS POINT.

Q: ARE THEY MORE THAN 12 MILES FROM THE COAST NOW?

A: YES, WELL OVER TWELVE MILES, I THINK, WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK TO BE SURE THAT THEY ARE ALL OUT BUT CERTAINLY WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS THEY RE OUT.

Q: ARE THEY NO LONGER MAKING PICKUPS?

A: IF SOMEONE IS ABLE TO REACH ANY OF THE SHIPS. THERE WILL BE PICKUPS.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS THEY'RE ALL OUT, ARE THOSE ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS WITHIN THE 12 MILES?

A: NO, I WAS JUST SIMPLY STATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MIGHT NOT BE ALL OUT. I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE ALL OUT AT THIS TIME.

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Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TIME WAS WHEN THE ORDER WAS GIVEN TO DEPART THE AREA?

A: WE WILL CHECK ON THAT, LLOYD (NORMAN, NEWSWEEK), AND GET THAT INFORMATION TO YOU.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, HAS IT BEEN DETERMINED WHO GAVE THAT ORDER TO DELAY THE PICKUP BY AN HOUR?

A: WE ARE REVIEWING THAT; THE ORDER ITSELF, OF COURSE, CAME FROM THE COMMAND SHIP.

Q: ARE ALL THE SHIPS SAILING TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES NOW?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THEIR DESTINATIONS; I PRESUME THAT MOST

OF THEM ARE GOING TO THE EAST WITH THE REFUGEES ABOARD.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, WHEN YOU SPOKE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXTRACTED FROM THE EMBASSY BEING A FACTOR IN THE PROTRACTED OPERATION THERE, IS THAT A LARGER NUMBER THAN YOU ANTICIPATED? DID IT INCLUDE MANY MORE VIETNAMESE THAN YOU ANTICIPATED AND IS THERE A BREAKDOWN ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM THE EMBASSY AS DISTINGUISHED FROM TAN SON NHUT AT THIS TIME?

A: WE EXTRACTED 4,475 VIETNAMESE FROM TAN SON NHUT AND 1,120 FROM THE EMBASSY ACCORDING TO THE NUMBERS THAT I HAVE HERE. PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5588 UNCLAS

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE 395 U.S. FROM TAN SON NHUT, 978 FROM THE EMBASSY; A TOTAL OF 1,373. THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS ARE ESTIMATED AT 85 FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 7,053 PLUS THE SECURITY FORCE THAT AMOUNTED TO 995. SO THAT NEARLY 8,000 PEOPLE WERE LIFTED OUT IN THIS EXERCISE.

Q: TOTAL OF 1,300 AMERICANS?

A: 1,373.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, HAVE YOU MADE ANY INITIAL SURVEY ABOUT HOW MUCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAS NOT FALLEN INTO NORTH VIETNAMESE HANDS? THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GET THOSE AIRPLANES WHICH WERE FLOWN TO THAILAND?

A: THE UNITED STATES RETAINS TITLE TO ALL AIRCRAFT THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IT RETAINS ULTIMATE TITLE SO I WOULD NOT THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REASSERTING TITLE TO THOSE AIRCRAFT. THE QUESTION OF THE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT THAT HAS FALLEN TO THE VIETNAMESE, THE ESTIMATES RUN IN EXCESS OF \$5 BILLION WORTH OF EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN A PRECISE BREAKDOWN BUT WE SHALL MAKE THOSE FIGURES AVAILABLE WHEN WE HAVE THEM. I SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT MUCH OF THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE UNUSABLE FOR THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

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SECTION 2 OF 5

MUCH OF IT HAS BEEN DEADLINED PREVIOUSLY. THERE WILL BE NO  
AVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS AND THE LIKE.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, IS IT TRUE, AS REPORTED IN THE WASHINGTON  
POST, THAT A MESSAGE DID GO TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAYING THAT THE  
EVACUATION SHOULD BE SPEEDED AND THE 19 HELICOPTERS WOULD BE  
THE LAST FLIGHT?

A: AS I INDICATED EARLIER, ATTEMPTS WERE INDDDED MADE TO  
EXPEDITE THE EVACUATION FROM THE EMBASSY.

Q: SO YOU WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS?

A: I WOULD NOT USE THAT PHRASE. I THINK THAT WE WOULD  
NATURALLY PREFER AS EXPEDITIOUS AN EVACUATION AS POSSIBLE

Q: HAD YOU NOT ANTICIPATED THAT 1,000 OR MORE VIETNAMESE  
WERE TO BE EVACUATED FROM THE EMBASSY? WAS THAT THE MAIN  
PROBLEM?

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A: WE DID NOT HAVE A FIX ON THE PRECISE NUMBER THAT WOULD  
BE EVACUATED PREVIOUSLY. WE HAD TRUSTED THAT THE EVACUATION  
WOULD INCLUDE -- OF VIETNAMESE WOULD COME FROM TAN SON NHUT  
BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, IN THE EQUIPMENT LEFT BEHIND, WAS THERE  
ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE OF VALUE, SAY, TO THE SOVIET UNION,  
EQUIPMENT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON?

A: NO, SIR. I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE NO HIGH TECHNOLOGY  
ITEMS THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND THAT WOULD BRING BOUT ANY ADVANCE  
IN THEIR STATE OF KNOWLEDGE.

Q: YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD THOUGHT THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE  
WOULD COME FROM TAN SON NHUT IN FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. DOES THAT  
MEAN THAT YOU HAD NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS  
OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE WOULD BE EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER?

A: ORIGINALLY, WE HAD EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO EVACUATE ALL  
SOUTH VIETNAMESE FROM TAN SON NHUT BY FIXED WING WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF A RELATIVELY LIMITED NUMBER OF HIGH RISK PEOPLE.

Q: SO WAS AMBASSADOR MARTIN ACTING BEYOND YOUR EXPECTATIONS  
WHEN HE WAS LOADING SOUTH VIETNAMESE FROM THE EMBASSY?

A: NO, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT. WE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THAT  
PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5589 UNCLAS

BUT CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED RATHER RAPIDLY ON THE 28TH. WHAT  
WE HAD EXPECTED AT THE START OF THE DAY WAS TO CONTINUE THE

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FIXED WING EVACUATION FROM TAN SON NHUT. WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT TAN SON NHUT WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PROCEED WITH THE EVACUATION OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN PUT TOGETHER IN MIXED GROUPS FOR EVACUATION FROM TAN SON NHUT AND IN ADDITION, THOSE WHO WERE AT THE EMBASSY. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS A PRAGMATIC REASON, THAT PROCEEDING WITH THE EVACUATION IN THAT MANNER WAS NOT ONLY ADVANTAGEOUS ON GROUNDS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHO FELT UNDER THREAT, BUT IN ADDITION PROVIDED US, WE THOUGHT, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR EXTRACTING THE AMERICANS.

Q: NOW THAT THE WAR IN INDOCHINA IS OVER, DO WE PLAN TO REMOVE OUR AIRCRAFT FROM THAILAND?

A: THE ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF OUR FORCES IN THAILAND WILL COME FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH THE THAIS. AS YOU KNOW, I BELIEVE I INDICATED A YEAR AGO WE PLANNED TO FURTHER DRAWDOWN IN THAILAND, AND WE WILL BE MAKING REDUCTIONS IN OUR FORCES IN THAILAND. THE PRECISE TIMING, THE PRECISE MAGNITUDE, REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED.

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Q: MR. SECRETARY, DURING THE PAST YEAR, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, YOU SAID THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT TOLERATE A MASSIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE INVASION ACROSS THE BORDER IN EVENT THEY DID. WERE YOU SIMPLY WRONG OR DO YOU THINK SOMETHING IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE CHANGED THAT YOU DID NOT DETECT?

A: I BELIEVE THAT WHAT I HAD STATED EARLIER WAS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE EXERCISE OF AMERICAN MILITARY POWER. I INDICATED THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WAS INDEED VOLATILE AND THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE REACTIONS OF THE PUBLIC MIGHT BE STARKLY UNFAVORABLE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. PUBLIC OPINION WAS NOT THAT VOLATILE.

Q: HAVE THE NUMBER OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON THE SHIPS THAT ARE SAILING AWAY FROM VIETNAM INCREASED FROM YESTERDAY SUBSTANTIALLY?

A: I DON'T HAVE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THAT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A VERY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, IF THIS OPERATION WAS EXTENDED AND EXPANDED IN SCOPE -- THE HELICOPTER OPERATION -- IN ORDER TO TAKE OUT SOUTH VIETNAMESE, WHAT WAS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO USE OUR ARMED FORCES?

A: THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO USE OUR ARMED FORCES? THE PRESIDENT HAS, AS YOU KNOW, THE INHERENT OBLIGATION UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT AMERICANS. THERE ARE THREE REASONS: PRAGMATIC, MORAL AND LEGAL. THE PRAGMATIC REASON I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED. AT TAN SON NHUT WHERE THE BULK OF THE VIETNAMESE WERE LOCATED, THEY HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED IN MIXED GROUPS FOR FLIGHTS OUT ON C-130S. IT WAS THE JUDGMENT OF THOSE ON THE SCENE TO ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE THOSE GROUPS AT THAT STAGE MIGHT HAVE PROVOKED PANIC; MIGHT HAVE EXTENDED INTO SAIGON ITSELF AND THAT

IT MIGHT HAVE DELAYED THE WITHDRAWAL OPERATION. THE WITHDRAWAL FROM TAN SON NHUT, AS YOU KNOW, PROCEEDED QUITE EXPEDITIOUSLY, SO THAT THERE WAS A PRAGMATIC REASON GIVEN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN ADDITION, AS I BELIEVE, THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY HAS INDICATED, THERE WERE STRONG MORAL REASONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS STRESSED, THAT WE SHOULD FULFILL OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THESE PEOPLE BY PROVIDING THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE EVACUATED.

FINALLY, AS YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAD REQUESTED SPECIFIC AUTHORITY IN THIS REGARD FROM THE CONGRESS AND BOTH HOUSES HAD PASSED LEGISLATION PROVIDING THEM WITH THAT AUTHORITY. THAT WAS PAGE 6 RUEKJCS 5589 UNCLAS

AN EXPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT. THAT LEGISLATION HAD NOT BECOME FINAL BUT IT WAS INDEED BOTH LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND AN EXPRESSION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.

Q: AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THIS MEANT THAT THE OPTION IV, THE HELICOPTER EXTRACTION AS CARRIED OUT, WAS SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE LIFTED OUT THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED.

Q: HOW MANY WERE ANTICIPATED, SIR? YOU MUST HAVE HAD A PLAN ON THAT.

A: WELL, ONCE AGAIN WE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT WE WOULD LIFT OUT BY FIXED WING MOST OF THE VIETNAMESE AND MOST OF THE AMERICANS THAT WERE LOCATED AT TAN SON NHUT SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DOWN TO A MUCH SMALLER GROUP AT THE EMBASSY. AS IT TURNED OUT, TAN SON NHUT WAS CLOSED AND IT BECAME NECESSARY IN THE JUDGMENT OF ALL CONCERNED TO LIFT OUT ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IN THE SCHEDULED LIFT AS WELL AS THE VIETNAMESE WHO HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED AT THE EMBASSY.

Q: THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN CHARGE OF THIS LIFT/ MR. SECRETARY, INCLUDING YOURSELF AND YOUR PRINCIPAL MILITARY ADVISORS,

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THINK THAT IT SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN UNDERWAY SOONER EITHER ON THE DAY IN QUESTION OR IN TERMS OF SEVERAL DAYS?

A: I THINK THAT AT THE TIME THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THERE WAS UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT ABOUT THE PROCEDURES THAT WERE ADOPTED AT THE TIME OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WAS TO ATTEMPT TO EVACUATE ALL FROM TAN SON NHUT BY FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND THAT WAS REGARDED AS THE WISEST COURSE OF ACTION TO BE PURSUED. THE CHANGE IN PLANS THAT RESULTED FROM THE CLOSURE OF TAN SON NHUT WERE AGREED TO ONCE AGAIN BY ALL PARTIES. AS TO THE PRECISE PACING OF THE EVACUATION OVER A PERIOD OF SOME WEEKS, THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BUT I DON'T SEE ANY PURPOSE IN GOING INTO THEM NOW.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, I WAS WONDERING, BASED ON A REPORT FROM TIME MAGAZINE THIS WEEK, WHETHER IN FACT THERE WAS A PLAN IN PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5590 UNCLAS

AUGUST 1973 TO BOMB KHE SANH, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE SUPPLY DEPOT THERE AND THE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES THAT HAD BEEN PUT IN THERE? WAS THERE, INDEED, SUCH A PLAN AND WAS IT CALLED OFF BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE CONSEQUENCES?

A: THE ARTICLE IN TIME THAT YOU REFER TO I THINK STATED APRIL OF 1973, RATHER THAN AUGUST OF 1973. IN AUGUST 1973, THE LEGISLATION THAT WAS PASSED WITH THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY PRECLUDED, I BELIEVE, ANY SUCH CONTEMPLATED ACTION. IN APRIL 1973 I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A PLAN TO PROCEED WITHOUT BOMBING. I KNOW THAT THERE WAS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE BUILDUP OF SAM CAPABILITIES BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN TOTAL VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THEY HAD BEGUN TO CHEAT, NOT IN SMALL WAYS, BUT BY INTRODUCING INTO SOUTH VIETNAM AN ENTIRELY NEW CLASS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND, OF COURSE, THE AGREEMENT CONTEMPLATED ONLY ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT. THAT WAS A MATTER OF CONCERN, WHETHER IT WENT AS FAR AS A DECISION TO PROCEED, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED, FOR WHATEVER REASON, WATERGATE OR OTHERS I DO NOT KNOW. BUT THERE WAS DEEP CONCERN AT THAT TIME ABOUT THE GROSS VIOLATIONS THAT HAD COME INTO BEING AROUND KHE SANH.

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Q: MR. SECRETARY, LOOKING AHEAD A MOMENT, VIETNAM ASSUMING IT'S A LEGAL UNIFICATION OR NOT, HAS EMERGED AS A MAJOR MILITARY

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POWER IN INDOCHINA OR WHAT IS LEFT OF INDOCHINA; COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHAT YOU SEE IN TERMS OF THE THREAT THAT'S POSED TO SURROUNDING STATES IN INDOCHINA?

A: AS YOU KNOW, THE CAMBODIANS HAVE DECLARED THEIR NEUTRALITY SINCE THERE HAS BEEN A TAKEOVER BY THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS. THAT NEUTRALITY MAY WELL BE RESPECTED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. IN LAOS, THERE IS A SETTLEMENT, AND ONCE AGAIN ONE MAY HOPE THAT THAT SETTLEMENT MAY BE RESPECTED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. IT WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL TEST OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORBEARANCE. ONE CANNOT TELL WITH PRECISION WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE, AND THAT IS A MATTER THAT WILL REFLECT TWO PRIORITIES OF THE POLITBURO IN HANOI; THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THEIR INTERNAL NEEDS AS OPPOSED TO THEIR EXTERNAL OBJECTIVES. WHATEVER THEY MAY BE. ELSEWHERE, ALONG THEIR FRONTIERS, I WOULD NOT EXPECT THEM TO INDULGE IN HOSTILE ACTION.

Q: THAILAND?

A: THAT, OF COURSE, IS NOT ALONG THEIR FRONTIER. ONCE AGAIN THAT WOULD REFLECT THE BALANCE IN THE POLITBURO IN HANOI BETWEEN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OBJECTIVES.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT IS UNUSABLE THAT WAS LEFT THERE.

A: NO, SIR, I HOPE I SAID SOME SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF IT, BUT I WOULDN'T . . . .

Q: WHY IS IT UNUSABLE, IS IT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SPARE PARTS OR IS IT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS WORN OUT?

A: UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE IS SOME IN THE LATTER CATEGORY, BUT MUCH OF THAT EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN LAID UP BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF SPARE PARTS. PROBABLY ADDITIONAL DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE; THERE HAS BEEN ADDITIONAL WEAR AND TEAR. SO THAT SOME SIGNIFICANT FRACTION OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE ORIGINAL DOLLAR COST OF THAT EQUIPMENT WOULD REPRESENT ESSENTIALLY UNUSABLE ITEMS.

Q: IS THERE ANY ROUGH ESTIMATE AS TO HOW MUCH IS USABLE?

A: I THINK WE CAN SUPPLY SUCH AN ESTIMATE TO YOU. A SUBSTANTIAL FRACTION OF THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN LAID UP PRIOR TO THE COLLAPSE AT BAN ME THOUT IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH, AND I WOULD THINK THAT THAT EQUIPMENT WOULD BE UNUSABLE.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE FINAL DENOUEMENT IN VIETNAM HAS CAUSED ANY HARDENING OF VIEWS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION OR HARDENING OF SUSPICIONS ABOUT DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA?

A: I'M NOT SURE THAT I WOULD USE A PHRASE LIKE 'HARDENING.' UNDOUBTEDLY AN EVENT OF THIS SORT DOES CAUSE A PROPENSITY TO REASSESS POLICY. THE PRESIDENT STATED IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS THAT DETENTE IS NOT A LICENSE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS. I THINK THAT WE PROBABLY CAN CONCLUDE THAT DETENTE HAS BEEN FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL IN TERMS OF THE DIRECT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL POWERS THAN IT HAS BEEN IN PROVIDING REGIONAL STABILITY ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD EITHER SOUTHEAST ASIA

OR THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL BE SENDING ANY FURTHER SHIPS BACK NEAR THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL REFUGEES?

A: I DON'T WANT TO RULE THAT OUT ENTIRELY, BUT THERE IS NO SUCH PLAN AT THIS TIME.

Q: I'M NOT CLEAR, MR. SECRETARY. ARE ALL THE SHIPS WITHDRAWING OR ARE SOME STILL OUTSIDE THE 12-MILE ZONE.

A: I WOULD HAVE TO GIVE YOU A PRECISE UPDATE AT THE PRESENT TIME. MOST OF THE SHIPS ARE WITHDRAWING; THERE MAY BE SOME THAT ARE STAYING WELL OUTSIDE THE 12-MILE LIMIT. THAT WOULD BE A MATTER OF HOURS OR PERHAPS DAYS.

Q: IN EFFECT, YOU'RE OBEYING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ORDERS TO CEASE FORCEABLE REMOVAL?

A: I THINK THAT THOSE DEMANDS CHARACTERISTICALLY FOLLOW AN ACTION, RATHER THAN PROCEED THEM.

Q: NOW THAT WE'RE OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM, WHAT WOULD YOU LIST AS THE AREAS IN WHICH WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST?

A: WELL, I THINK THAT THE FORWARD DEFENSE AREAS MUST CONTINUE TO BE WESTERN EUROPE AND KOREA, AND INDIRECTLY JAPAN. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE WE HAVE COMMITMENTS WHICH I WOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE CHALLENGED, TO THE PHILIPPINES. WE HAVE OTHER MAJOR INTERESTS IN THE STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE OUR TREATY OBLIGATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHICH CONTINUES, OF COURSE, IN FORCE. I'M JUST TRYING TO TICK OFF THE MAJOR ITEMS. I DO NOT EXPECT TO SAY ANY CHALLENGE IN THE PART OF THE WORLD, HOWEVER.

Q: NOT EVEN FROM THE PHILIPPINES. MR. SECRETARY?

A: I WAS REFERRING TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND.

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I WOULD NOT EXPECT A MILITARY CHALLENGE TO THE PHILIPPINES,  
THERE WOULD BE NO SIGN OF THAT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT KOREA?

A: KOREA AS I INDICATED IS A FORWARD DEFENSE AREA. WE ARE  
BOUND TO THEM BY THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND U.S. FORCES  
ARE DEPLOYED THERE. I WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANYONE WOULD  
CHALLENGE THAT U.S. PRESENCE OR COMMITMENT.

Q: WAS THERE ANY UNDERSTANDING TACIT OR OTHERWISE WITH  
THE COMMUNIST FORCES BEFORE THE EVACUATION? IT APPEARS THAT  
THEY DIDN'T TRY AWFULLY HARD TO TRY TO STOP IT WITH DIRE.

A: I'M NOT SURE WHETHER ONE SHOULD CHARACTERIZE THAT AS A  
TACIT UNDERSTANDING. UNDOUBTEDLY, THEY DID NOT BRING TO BEAR  
THE FULL WEIGHT OF THEIR MILITARY POWER. UNDOUBTEDLY THAT  
REFLECTED A MIXTURE OF SELF RESTRAINT, DIPLOMACY AND THE  
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PRUDENCE IN HANDLING MILITARY UNITS THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED  
NORTH VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS FOR MANY YEARS.

Q: WHAT JUSTIFICATION REMAINS FOR KEEPING U.S. FORCES IN  
THAILAND SINCE YOU SAID IN YOUR POSTURE STATEMENT THAT THEY  
WERE THERE FOR ONLY A HEDGE AGAINST A NORTH VIETNAMESE MAJOR  
OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM? SINCE THAT HAS ALREADY PASSED,  
WHY WOULD YOU KEEP ANY FORCES IN THAILAND?

A: I THINK THAT IS A QUESTION THAT WE WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS  
AT SOME LENGTH. OBTAINING THAI PERCEPTIONS ON THAT PROBLEM.  
A PRIOR REASON FOR THEIR RETENTION IN THAT MAGNITUDE WERE AS  
YOU STATED, BUT THE U.S. HAS LONG CONTEMPLATED, EVEN AFTER  
THE CLOSURE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN WAR,  
THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESIDUAL FORCE REMAINING IN THAILAND.  
WE CONTINUE TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SEATO ORGANIZATION WITH  
THE THAIS.

Q, DO YOU CONSIDER THAT AN OBLIGATION TO DEFEND THAILAND IN  
CASE SHE IS ATTACKED EXTERNALLY?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH MY LAWYERS. I THINK THAT  
THERE IS AN OBLIGATION OF A MORAL NATURE UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-  
STANCES.

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Q: COULD YOU ADDRESS THE STATUS OF FORMOSA?

A: I THINK ONCE AGAIN THAT FORMOSA IS PART OF THE ISLAND

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CHAIN OFF THE COAST OF ASIA THAT IS DEFENSIBLE. WE HAVE TREATY OBLIGATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND AS LONG AS THOSE TREATIES CONTINUE TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY AND ARE THE HIGHEST LAW OF THE LAND, FORMOSA TOO WILL BE PROTECTED.

Q: FOR YEARS THE STATIONING OF U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA HAS BEEN BASED UPON THE COMPLETION OF A FIVE-YEAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WHICH STARTED MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AGO.

A: IT IS AS YET NOT COMPLETED.

Q: WHAT I'M ASKING IS THE BASIS OF OUR POLICY THAT WE WILL WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS WHEN THAT IS COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OR DO WE NOW HAVE A MUCH MORE OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT TO KEEP THE TROOPS IN KOREA?

A: I'M NOT SURE THAT ONCE AGAIN THAT I WOULD EMPLOY YOUR PHRASEOLOGY OF ABOUT A MUCH MORE OPEN-MINDED COMMITMENT. IN THE FIRST PLACE THE TYING OF THE U.S. PRESENCE TO THE COMPLETION OF THE PLAN WAS A DECISION THAT WAS TAKEN BY THE PRIOR ADMINISTRATION AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THAT TIME. WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT. WE HAVE A PRESIDENTIAL POLICY AND WHETHER OR NOT

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THERE IS ANY SUCH TIE BETWEEN A HYPOTHETICAL COMPLETION OF THAT FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN FORCES, SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED- IT IS CLEAR, I THINK, THAT A CONSEQUENCE OF THE EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS BEEN TO SHAKE THE CONFIDENCE OF MANY COUNTRIES IN AMERICAN POWER AND PARTICULARLY IN AMERICAN STEADFASTNESS. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IT IS PARTICULARLY INOPPORTUNE TO CONTEMPLATE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE U.S. POSTURE ABROAD THAT WOULD APPLY TO KOREA. AND, OF COURSE, WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS IN KOREA, HE INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO RETAIN THOSE FORCES THERE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

Q: WE'VE BEEN HEARING AND SEEING THAT THERE'S A LOT OF UNHAPPINESS WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND THE BASES WHERE THE VIETNAMESE ARE COMING IN. ARE YOU RECEIVING ANY FEEDBACK FROM FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS; FORT WALTON BEACH, AND SO ON, FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THESE REFUGEE CAMPS?

A: I THINK THAT YOU WILL HAVE MIXED REACTIONS UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE LOCALITY. I THINK THAT MOST OF THOSE IN THE LOCALITY WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THE NECESSITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TAKING ACTION AND THAT I WOULD EXPECT THAT ANY REGRETS OR STRONG FEELINGS THAT ARE EXPRESSED WILL BE

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TEMPORARY. WE TRUST THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM VIETNAM WILL RAPIDLY BE FITTED INTO A PLACE IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY. FOR THOSE THAT COME HERE TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, WE ARE HOPEFUL, CONTINUE TO BE HOPEFUL, THAT OTHER NATIONS THAT HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THEIR OWN HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATIONS, WILL BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF VIETNAM.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM WAS PRIMARILY DUE TO LACK OF MILITARY AID AND SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES OR DO YOU THINK THAT THERE WERE OTHER

IMPORTANT INTERNAL FACTORS THAT WERE THERE THAT LED TO THE DECAY AND COLLAPSE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY?

A: I THINK THAT IT WAS BOTH AND IN HISTORY IT WILL BE HARD TO SEPARATE OUT THE VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS THAT WERE AT WORK. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE AID QUESTION MADE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE IMMEDIACY OF THE COLLAPSE, AND INDIRECTLY, IT MADE A CONTRIBUTION IN THAT FOR A PERIOD OF A YEAR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SUBSTITUTE, HIGHER CASUALTIES AS A RESULT IN THE DECLINE IN FIREPOWER. THOSE HIGHER CASUALTIES KILLED IN ACTION, RUNNING IN EXCESS OF 30,000  
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A YEAR RESULTED IN A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE NUMBER OF JUNIOR OFFICERS, SENIOR NON-COMS BEING KILLED. NOW UNDOUBTEDLY THE LOSS OF THOSE JUNIOR OFFICERS, SENIOR NON-COMS AFFECTED THE LEADERSHIP PROBLEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS YOUR QUESTION DOES SUGGEST, THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE COLLAPSE HERE, THAT IT MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED, MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED AT SOME TIME IRRESPECTIVE OF A GREATER GENEROSITY IN THE AID APPROPRIATIONS.

Q: IN LIGHT OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, DO YOU FORESEE ANY CHANGE OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY POSTURE IN ASIA RATHER THAN STATED IN YOUR DEFENSE PAPER? IS THERE ANY CHANGE CONTEMPLATED?

A: WE ARE NOT PLANNING TO CHANGE AT THIS TIME; AT LEAST THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS ANY PLANNED CHANGE IN THE FUTURE, BUT WE ARE NOT PLANNING AT THIS TIME ANY CHANGES IN THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH WE DEPLOY NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

Q: SOME TIME AGO, ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ON THIS KOREA POSITION YOU TALKED ABOUT USING THEM AS A MOBILE FORCE FOR USE IN THE PACIFIC AREA. HAS THAT CONCEPT NOW BEEN REJECTED?

A: NO, IT HAS NOT BEEN REJECTED AND WE HAVE MOVED IN THE DIRECTION OF CREATING A GREATER DEGREE OF MOBILITY IN THAT FORCE.

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Q: MR. SECRETARY, YOU'RE NOT AS POSITIVE AS AMBASSADOR MARTIN WHO IS AS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF WE HAD KEPT OUR COMMITMENT, SAIGON WOULD NOT HAVE FALLEN; YOU'RE NOT QUITE SURE OF THAT?

A: I THINK IT IS VERY HARD TO DISENTANGLE THESE HISTORICAL EVENTS. I THINK THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN MAY BE REFERRING TO MORE THAN THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. I THINK THAT AMBASSADOR MARTIN MAY BE REFERRING TO MORAL ASSISTANCE OF A GREATER DEGREE THAN WE DID PROVIDE; THE FEELING THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INDEED BEHIND THEM; AND IN ADDITION WAS REFERRING TO THE INDICATIONS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN, THAT U.S. MILITARY POWER WOULD BE REINTRODUCED IN THE EVENT OF A BREAKDOWN OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. UNDOUBTEDLY, IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD PERCEIVED THAT THAT WAS A LIVELY POSSIBILITY, PAGE 2 RUEKJCS 5592 UNCLAS

THEY WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED AS THEY DID.

DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, THEY BEGAN TO TEST AND THIS WAS, OF COURSE, AS MUCH AS 18 MONTHS AFTER THE LEGISLATION THAT PRECLUDED ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITHOUT GOING BACK TO CONGRESS, THAT THEY TESTED THAT RESOLVE IN THE ATTACK ON PHUOC LONG, THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO REQUEST THE \$300 MILLION THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AUTHORIZED, BUT FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO APPROPRIATION. IT WAS NOT AS STRONG A REACTION AS THEY MIGHT HAVE FEARED AND THEY WERE GRADUALLY EMBOLDENED TO THE POINT THAT THEY BEGAN TO THRUST A DIVISION AFTER DIVISION INTO SOUTH VIETNAM. IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD PERCEIVED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ONCE AGAIN PREPARED TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION, I THINK THAT THE PARIS ACCORDS WOULD HAVE STOOD UP.

Q: WAS THERE EVER ANY PREPARATION ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE CONGRESS TO TAKE SUCH ACTION?

A: I THINK THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS SPOKEN ON THAT ISSUE INSOFAR AS THE PERIOD FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN PRESIDENT. I THINK THAT IT WAS THE INTENTION OF PRESIDENT NIXON IN THE SUMMER OF '73 AND AT THE TIME OF THE ACCORDS, TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE PAGE 3 RUEKJCS 5592 UNCLAS MILITARY ACTION.

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