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EPF 48

U.S. TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION IN VIETNAM AFTER CEASEFIRE (560)
WASHINGTON -- THE UNITED STATES WILL CONDUCT MILITARY

OPERATIONS IN

INAM FOLLOWING THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE TO ASSURE
MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
POPULATION, THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS.

SHOULD THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUE A LOWER LEVEL OF COMBAT
ACTIVITY AFTER THE TRUCE PERIOD EXPIRES, THIS WOULD HAVE "AN
IMPORTANT INFLUENCE" ON U.S. POLICY DECISIONS, WHITE HOUSE PRESS
SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER SAID SEPTEMBER 10.

ANSWERING NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS, MR. ZIEGLER SAID IT WAS
POSSIBLE THE "LEVEL OF U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS MAY PICK UP"
AFTER THE 72-HOUR TRUCE OBSERVING THE FUNERAL OF HO CHI MINH
CITY. MILITARY COMMANDERS WOULD CONDUCT
TO MINIMIZE LOSSES OF AMERICAN LIVES, PROVIDE MAXIMUM PROTECTION
FOR U.S. PERSONNEL AND FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POPULATION.

MR. ZIEGLER POINTED OUT THE LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY IS ONE
OF THREE CRITERIA SET OUT BY PRESIDENT NIXON AS DETERMINING
FACTORS IN HIS DECISION ON WITHDRAWING U.S. TROOPS FROM VIETNAM.

ASKED HOW THE PRESIDENT FELT ABOUT THE NUMBER OF MILITARY
OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES (ARVN) DURING
THE TRUCE PERIOD, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT WANT TO "ASSESS
THESE BATTALIONS, 9034-589, 10285
THESE BATTALION OPERATIONS WHICH ARVN REPORTED THEY CONDUCTED."
ASKED FURTHER IF THE UNITED STATES AGREED WITH THOSE ACTIONS,
HE SAID, "WE UNDERSTAND THEIR ACTIONS."

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MR. ZIEGLER POINTED OUT THE JOINT STATEMENT ON THE TRUCE PERIOD
ISSUED BY THE U.S. AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS SAID ALLIED
OPERATIONS WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY ENEMY ACTIVITIES. HE ADDED
THEREFORE, "SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION" PROVIDED FOR
BY THE STATEMENT.

OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT
WAS CONSIDERING ACCEPTANCE OF THE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL DURING A
PERIOD WHEN COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT A HIGH LEVEL AND
WHEN THE NUMBER OF SOUTH VIETNAM SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION HAD
DOUBLED OVER PREVIOUS PERIODS. THE OFFICIALS SAID THESE FACTORS
AND ENEMY VIOLATIONS OF PREVIOUS CEASE-FIRES HAD TO BE TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT BY SAIGON OFFICIALS.

THE U.S. OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED THAT SOUTH VIETNAM WAS BEING
ASKED TO OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE HONORING THE DEATH OF AN ENEMY OF SOME
20 YEARS STANDING.

MR. ZIEGLER SAID, "AT NO POINT NO POINT WAS THERE IN ANY WAY
A DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SAIGON"
DURING THE DELIBERATIONS ON THE CEASEFIRE.

THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SPOKESMAN ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY TOLD
QUESTIONERS THAT THERE HAS BEEN "NO REPORT NO SPLIT" BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM ON ALLIED RESPONSE TO THE VIET
CONGRESS--DECLARED CEASEFIRE.

MR. MCCLOSKEY SAID: "I AM SPEAKING OFFICIALLY, AND I AM
NOT REPORTING DEALING WITH REPORTS OR INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT
HAPPENED ON THE FIELD IN VIETNAM" DURING THE CEASEFIRE,
WHICH ENDED AT 1700 GMT SEPTEMBER 10.

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MR. MCCLOSKEY ALSO TOLD A QUESTIONER NOT REPORT NOT TO RELATE
A U.S. COUNTER-PROPOSAL THAT THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE PARIS
TALKS BE HELD SEPTEMBER 13, TO THE ALREADY-SCHEDULED WHITE HOUSE
REVIEW IN WASHINGTON OF THE VIETNAM SITUATION THE PRECEDING DAY.

THE VIET CONGRESS DELEGATION IN PARIS PROPOSED THAT THE SESSION
SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11 BE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 BECAUSE OF
THE MOURNING PERIOD OVER THE DEATH OF NORTH VIETNAM'S PRESIDENT
HO CHI MINH.

"OUR SIDE FINDS IT INCONVENIENT TO MEET ON SRIDAY," MR. MCCLOSKEY SAID WITHOUT ELABORATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH VIETNAM HAD AGREED TO THE POSTPONEMENT REQUESTED BY THE OTHER SIDE LAST WEEK. ITEM

9/10/69 320PM GD

EPF 49

U.S., THAILAND REACH PRELIMINARY ACCORD ON TROOP REDUCTIONS (100)
WASHINGTON -- THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND HAVE REACHED A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND, BUT NEGOTIATION "ARE NOT RPT NOT OVER," THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS.

ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, DENIED PRESS REPORTS FROM BANGKOK THAT THE TALKS WHICH OPENED THERE LAST WEEK HAVE ENDED.

"A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, BUT NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING UNTIL ALL DETAILS ARE IRONED OUT," MR. MCCLOSKEY SAID SEPTEMBER 10

THERE

E 48,000 U.S. TROOPS IN OVA LAND.

MR. MCCLOSKEY DECLINED UNDER QUESTIONING TO REVEAL ANY FIGURE FOR THE REDUCTION OF AMERICAN FORCES. ITEM

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EPF50

PRESIDENT NIXON PREPARES FOR VIETNAM DECISIONS (800)
JOHN ALBERT
VOA NEWS ANALYST

WASHINGTON -- WHEN NIXON'S PRESS SECRETARY MADE THE SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT LAST MONTH THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DEFERRING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AT LEAST HIS DECISION ON FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, HE GAVE EXPLICIT REASONS FOR THE DELAY. MR. ZIEGLER TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT MR. NIXON FELT HE NEEDED FURTHER INFORMATION AND EVALUATION ON THE LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY, AS WELL AS ON INFILTRATION LEVELS. EVER SINCE, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS AND SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS HAVE LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THAT AFTER A WHOLE SERIES OF ALLIED PEACE INITIATIVES IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE OTHER SIDE TO RESPOND.

IN LINE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE "SENSIBLE RISKS FOR PEACE" TO USE MR. ROGERS' PHRASE--PRESIDENT NIXON ARRANGED FOR AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE VIETNAM SITUATION. THIS REVIEW WILL BE UNDERTAKEN SEPTEMBER 12 IN A TOP-LEVEL MEETING OF ALL VIETNAM HANDS--INCLUDING THE CHIEF MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE AAR ZONE, GENERAL CREIGHTON AERAMS AND ADMIRAL JOHN MCCAIN. MR. NIXON HAS ALREADY SEEN U.S. AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER WHO IS AT PRESENT IN WASHINGTON, AFTER CONFERRING WITH AMBASSADOR LODGE IN PARIS.

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THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, AS WELL AS MR. ZIEGLER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEETING, MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DISCUSSION WILL BY NO MEANS BE RESTRICTED TO THE COMING
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AYING THAT NO SUCH MOMENTOUS
KATIBRBBONGOULD TAKE PLACWITHOUT CAREFQUG CM
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VEN TO THE DEATVPM NORTH VIETNAM'S PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH AND THE POSSIBLE MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE HANOI LEADERSHIP--AND TNAM'S PRESIDENT HO CHI

MINH AND THE POSSIBLE MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE HANOI LEADERSHIP--AND WITH IT, OF COURSE, FOR THE WAR. WITH THE RETURN OF CONGRESS TO WASHINGTON, THE START OF THE FALL TERM IN THE COLLEGES AND A GENERAL PICKUP IN THE TEMPO AND INTENSITY OF PUBLIC POLITICAL DISCUSSION, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION CANNOT HELP BUT EXPECT RENEWED PRESSURE BY ITS CRITICS FOR FURTHER MOVES TOWARD PEACE IN VIETNAM.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, MANY OF THESE CRITICS SEE IN THE PASSING AWAY OF HO CHI MINH A NEW AND POWERFUL REASON FOR SUCH NEW AMERICAN MOVES. IN FACT, EDITORIAL WRITERS AND COLUMNISTS, AS WELL AS THE FORMER U.S. CHIEF NEGOTIATOR IN PARIS, AMBASSADOR AVERELL HARRIMAN, ALREADY HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE PRESIDENT SEIZE WHAT THE NEW YORK TIMES CALLS "A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BOLD MOVE TOWARD PEACE."

IN AN UNUSUALLY SHARP AND IMPATIENT COLUMN, JAMES RESTON OF THE NEW YORK TIMES STATED SEPTEMBER 7 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO ADJUST TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT THAT THE SUMMER WAS NOW OVER AND THAT THE PRESIDENT "MUST GET BEYOND ATTITUDES AND PRODUCE POLICIES EQUAL TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS BEFORE THE NATION." MR. RESTON'S CHARGE, ECHOED IN VARIOUS WAYS BY OTHER CRITICS, IS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS DEALING "WITH THE POLITICS OF PROBLEMS" BUT NOT WITH POLICIES FOR THEIR SOLUTION.

ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN, OF COURSE, SEE THE SITUATION QUITE DIFFERENTLY. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ELLIOT RICHARDSON LAST WEEKEND ARGUED THAT, UNDER PRESIDENT NIXON, AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN REDEFINED AND GIVEN "DEFINITE LONG-RANGE GOALS," AGAINST WHICH THE WARRING DECISIONS CAN BE JUDGED. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FLEXIBILITY AND PRAGMATISM SHOWN IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION MUST IN HIS VIEW, NOT BE CONFUSED WITH DRIFT.

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PRESSURE ON THE WHITE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS ON VIETNAM--WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, ARE NOT EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF THE MEETING--MUST NOW BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK IN THE PRESS ON HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN UTILIZE THE BRIEF CEASE-FIRE ANNOUNCED BY THE OTHER SIDE IN HONOR OF HO CHI MINH TO WORK FOR A PERMANENT END TO HOSTILITIES. THE NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA CLAIM THAT WASHINGTON HAS IN FACT DECIDED NOT TO INITIATE NEW ACTIONS IF THE ENEMY HOLDS OFF A RESUMPTION OF COMBAT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THESE REPORTS. HOWEVER, THERE IS REALLY NO NEED TO. PRESIDENT NIXON STATED IN HIS PEACE INITIATIVE OF MAY 14TH THAT HE SEEKS A FORMAL AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND AN END OF HOSTILITIES. HE ADDED THAT THE U.S. IS ALSO WILLING TO ACCEPT DE FACTO WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IF HANOI FEELS IT DIFFICULT TO ADMIT THAT IT HAS TROOPS THERE.

IN LATER STATEMENTS THE PRESIDENT HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES IS SET BY THE ENEMY, NOT BY THE ALLIES. IF THE OTHER SIDE REDUCES MILITARY ACTIVITY, SO WILL THE UNITED STATES. SECRETARY ROGERS, IN DISCUSSING THE RECENT LULL IN THE FIGHTING, REVEALED THAT THE U.S. ACTUALLY REDUCED ITS ACTIVITY IN RESPONSE TO FEWER ENEMY ATTACKS. THERE IS, THEREFORE, NO NEW AMERICAN DECISION OR INITIATIVE REQUIRED FOR DE-ESCALATING THE FIGHTING. ALL THAT IS NEEDED IS FOR HANOI NOT TO STEP UP THE FIGHTING. ITEM

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