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EPF-19

U.S., SOUTH VIETNAM INFORM U.N. OF ACTION IN LAOS (200)

UNITED NATIONS -- THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAVE NOTIFIED THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTHERN LAOS, BOTH TELLING THE COUNCIL THAT THE MOVE WAS ONE OF SELF-DEFENSE AND LIMITED IN TIME AND SCOPE.

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OBSERVER MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS RELAYED TO THE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 3 PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LAOS ACTION -- INCLUDING HIS AFFIRMATION OF RESPECT FOR "THE INDEPENDENCE, NEUTRALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY" OF LAOS.

LATER THE SAME DAY, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES YOST INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE UNITED STATES, "WHICH IS ASSISTING THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THESE MEASURES, FULLY SUPPORTS THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS SET FORTH IN THAT (THIEU) STATEMENT."

AMBASSADOR YOST ALSO FORWARDED AN EARLIER STATEMENT BY A U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THAT NO AMERICAN GROUND COMBAT FORCES OR ADVISORS WILL MOVE INTO LAOS.

BOTH NATIONS ACTED UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE U.N. CHARTER REQUIRING THAT MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES IN EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE "SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL."

THA PROVISION ALSO SETS FORTH "THE INHERENT RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE SELF-DEFENSE" FOR NATIONS UNDER ARMED ATTACK FROM ANOTHER STATE. ITEM

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