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Saigon, Viet-Nam  
November 23, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

President Nixon has asked me to transmit to you the following message.

"Dear Mr. President:

I am increasingly dismayed and apprehensive over the press campaign emanating from Saigon. There are allegations that my associates are not informing me accurately of your views and that you have therefore dispatched a special emissary to Washington to accomplish this task. The unfounded attacks on the draft agreement have continued with increasing frequency.

In addition, I am struck by the dilatory tactics which we are experiencing from your side in Paris. It is evident that your representatives there have been unable to obtain with sufficient timeliness the answers to questions which we must have if we are adequately to represent your views during the negotiations, including the Protocols related to the draft agreement which were provided to your Government in Saigon some two weeks ago.

As I told you in my letters of November 8, 14, and 18, I will proceed promptly to a final solution if an acceptable final agreement is arrived at in Paris this week. Given my clear messages and those conveyed by my representatives these past several weeks, any further delay from your side can only be interpreted as an effort to scuttle the agreement. This would have a disastrous

His Excellency Nguyen Van Thieu  
President of the Republic of Viet-Nam  
Saigon, Viet-Nam

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effect on our ability to continue to support you and your Government.

I look forward to seeing your emissary in Washington as soon as the Paris sessions have been concluded, but in the interim I must urge you this one last time not to put ourselves irrevocably at odds. If the current course continues and you fail to join us in concluding a satisfactory agreement with Hanoi, you must understand that I will proceed at whatever the cost.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon"

With renewed assurances of my highest consideration,

Sincerely,



Ellsworth Bunker  
American Ambassador