

CONG - DIEN

UNCLASSIFIED

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FILE SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT
3/75

NƠI GỬI : - TRẦN KIM PHƯƠNG WASHINGTON D.C.

NỘI NHẠN : Colonel VO VAN CAM
(very urgent - for immediate submission
to Presirep).

Handwritten signature/initials

bản văn số : 162/C/W/VP/TLX.

Today 22nd March at Six p.m. White House handed over following letter of Pt. FORD addresses to Presirep "H.E. NGUYEN-VAN-THIEU President of the RVN Saigon the White House Washington March 22nd 1975 :

Dear President THIEU,

The current North Vietnamese offensive against your country is profoundly disturbing and personally anguishing. It is my view that Hanoi's attack represents nothing less than an abrogation by force of the Paris Agreement.

This turn of events bears the most severe consequences for both our nations. For you and your countrymen it is a time of supreme sacrifice which will determine the very fate of your nation. I am confident that under your leadership the armed forces and people of the RVN will continue their tenacious defense against this new aggression. I am equally confident that given additional external support you will prevail in your struggle for self determination.

As for the United States the issue is no less critical.

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By the action, Hanoi is again seeking to undermine all that we have fought to achieve at enormous cost over the past ten years. Concurrently at stake is American resolve to support a friend who is being attacked by heavily armed forces in total violation of a solemn international agreement.

I, for my part, am determined that American shall stand firmly the RVN at this crucial hour. With a view to honoring the responsibilities of the US in this situation I am following developments with the closest attention and am consulting on an urgent basis with my advisors on actions which the situation may require and the law permit. With regard to the provision of adequate military assistance to your armed forces you can be sure that I shall send every effort to meet your material needs on the battlefields.

In closing I wish to repeat my continued high respect for your resolve and for the constancy and courage of your people.

Sincerely signed GR R. FORD" The signed original letter will be sent to you by pouch next tuesday Stopend

Respects TRAN KIM PHUONG