

TEXT: PORTER'S OPENING REMARKS AT PARIS TALKS (640)

FILE	SUBJ.
DATE 7/73	SUB-CAT.

PARIS, JULY 13-- FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF OPENING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. PORTER AT THE 150TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE NEW PARIS MEETINGS ON VIETNAM:

(BEGIN TEXT)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE ARE HERE TODAY FOR ONE BASIC PURPOSE - TO EXPLORE WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITIES OF STARTING SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT. WE HOPE THAT THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS MOTIVATE YOUR SIDE, AND THAT TOGETHER WE MAY PROCEED TO AN INTENSIVE EXAMINATION OF CONCRETE ISSUES.

SINCE THE LAST PLENARY SESSION, NOTEWORTHY CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE HAVE TAKEN PLACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE WORLD. ON JULY 4 THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA PLEDGED TO BASE THEIR FUTURE RELATIONS UPON "PEACEFUL MEANS, AND NOT THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST EACH OTHER."

MEANWHILE, PROGRESS CONTINUED IN ESTABLISHING MORE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE THE PRODUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HAS TERMED AN INDICATION THAT "IN SPITE OF THE EXISTING ANTIAXIOMS... IT IS POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIAL SITUATION IN GERMANY AND ARE FITTED TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND AREAS OF FRICTION."

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ON MAY 29 THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION RECORDED IN THEIR "DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER," IN FULL AWARENESS OF THE "NEED TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH PROMOTE THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN THE WORLD," THE TWO NATIONS STATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO "NEGOTIATE AND SETTLE DIFFERENCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS."

THESE ARE DEEPLY ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS. WITHOUT IN ANY WAY MINIMIZING THE EXTREME COMPLEXITY OF THE VIETNAM PROBLEM WE BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE THAT A PARALLEL CAN BE FOUND AT THESE TALKS. IN ANY EVENT, WE INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE WHICH HAS OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST PLENARY SESSION HERE.

ON MAY 3 PRESIDENT NIXON PROPOSED, IN COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, JUST AND GENEROUS TERMS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH SIDES. THERE IS, INDEED, A HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. THOSE OF MAY 3 ARE, WE BELIEVE, ESPECIALLY NOTABLE FOR THEIR CLEAR CUT AND GENEROUS FEATURES.

AS YOU KNOW, THEY ENVISAGE, FIRST, THE RETURN OF ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND AN ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE MISSING IN ACTION; SECOND, A CEASE-FIRE THROUGHOUT INDO-CHINA UNDER INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION; THIRD, AS SOON AS POINTS ONE AND TWO HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED, THE UNITED STATES WILL STOP ALL ACTS OF FORCE THROUGHOUT INDO-CHINA; FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WILL THEN PROCEED WITH A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN FORCES FROM VIETNAM WITHIN FOUR MONTHS.

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THESE PROPOSALS WOULD END THE KILL, 4. THEY WOULD ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES, CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SOUTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE LEFT FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES, FREE FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THEY WOULD PERMIT ALL THE NATIONS WHICH HAVE SUFFERED IN THIS LONG WAR - CAMBODIA, LAOS, NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM - TO START THE URGENT WORK OF PEACEFUL RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION. IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOT SATISFACTORY, WHAT IS WRONG WITH THEM?

IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT ANYONE WOULD PREFER CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT CONDITIONS OF WARFARE IN NORTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH VIETNAM TO A MORE SPEEDY AND HONORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT WHICH THESE PROPOSALS OFFER?

THESE PROPOSALS, IN SUM, DESERVE YOUR FULL AND MEASURED CONSIDERATION. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL GIVE MOST CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE VIEWS YOU MAY EXPRESS AND TO ANY PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL YOU MAY WISH TO PRESENT BEFORE EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS. WE ARE ALSO ENTIRELY WILLING TO GO INTO ANY OTHER MATTERS YOU MAY WISH TO PUT FORWARD FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A MUTUAL EXAMINATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, A SERIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC DIALOGUE ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE -- THAT, IN OUR VIEW, IS THE WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS HERE. (END TEXT) DEY

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