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NLF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TERMINOLOGY

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HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

Subject: Semantics of Hanoi's October 26 statement

I requested Mr. Dung to prepare a memo on ~~Point~~ the semantic problems raised by Point 4 of the Hanoi broadcast of the proposed cease fire settlement, and of the paragraph in the introductory material which most directly bears upon it. With the possible exception of the Vietnamese troop reduction provisions of the agreement, about which the broadcast is ~~virtually~~ virtually silent, Point 4 is the key provision of the nine.

Mr. Dung's essay is attached.

There are several differences between the impression conveyed in Dr. Kissinger's press conference and the DRV statement plus Communist output elaborating upon it. Referring to the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord, Dr. Kissinger said:

"There would be created an institution called the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord whose general task would be to help promote the maintenance of the cease fire and to supervise the elections on which the parties might agree."

The DRV statement says that it would "supervise and urge the PRGRSV and the RVN government to carry out the signed agreements and organize general elections". Mr. Dung points to the difficulty of translating the Vietnamese for "supervise and urge." It must be further noted that the very next sentence in the DRV statement ~~provides~~ calls upon "the two South Vietnamese sides" to discuss "the formation of councils at lower levels." Does this ~~not~~ not imply that it will be up ~~to~~ to the National Council to "supervise and urge" them to do so, and interestingly enough the National Council's third component is not to be represented in the "councils at lower level."