

USEMB/S  
4-14, 15/75

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4175 / FILE / SUBJ.  
DATE / SUB-CAT.

DOI 14 - 15 APRIL 1975

SUBJECT COMMENTS OF AN ALLEGED PRG SPOKESMAN TO AN INTERMEDIARY OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DON ON RESOLVING THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. ON 14 APRIL 1975, AN INTERMEDIARY OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CONCURRENTLY MINISTER OF DEFENSE TRAN VAN DON, ALLEGEDLY ACTING AT DON'S REQUEST, MET WITH DR. TRAN VAN

DU, DIRECTOR OF THE LABORATORY OF MEDICAL ANALYSIS WHOM DON BELIEVES IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG). AS REQUESTED BY DON, THE INTERMEDIARY DESCRIBED TO DR. DU DON'S EFFORTS TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN ORDER TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS FOR A CEASEFIRE. THE INTERMEDIARY SAID THAT DON HAD AGREED TO WORK IN THE CABINET OF NGUYEN BA C A N TO ASSIST IN TALKS WITH THE COMMUNISTS. (FIELD COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A REGULAR SOURCE, ON 11 APRIL, DON SAID THAT HE WAS "IN CONTACT WITH" DU, WHOM DON APPARENTLY BELIEVES TO HAVE HIGH-LEVEL PRG CONTACTS. THERE IS NO OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO CONFIRM DR. DU'S ACCESS TO THE PRG.)

2. DU DISCUSSED THE POSITION OF THE PRG ON OPENING PEACE TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT (GVN). DU OBSERVED THAT THE PRG AND THE U.S. ARE BOTH FACING DIFFICULTIES. THE U.S. WILL HAVE TROUBLE EVACUATING "100,000 PLUS" VIETNAMESE BECAUSE PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN T H I E U WILL OPPOSE THIS, AND THE AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO USE FORCE. THE PRG, ON THE OTHER HAND, WANTS SAIGON INTACT, NOT LEVELLED AS XUAN LOC HAS BEEN. DU SAID THAT "HE WAS EMPOWERED TO

NEGOTIATE SAIGON'S SURRENDER." HE THEN PROPOSED AN AGREEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. THAT DON ASSUME THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT OF THE GVN AND DECLARE A CEASEFIRE WITHIN 72 HOURS.

B. THAT THE COMMUNISTS GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICANS IN SAIGON.

C. THAT THE AMERICANS EVACUATE ALL "BUT A CORE" WHICH WOULD RUN THE U.S. EMBASSY FOR AN "INTERIM PERIOD AND BEYOND" WHEN THE PRG TAKES CONTROL OF THE CITY. (FIELD COMMENT: THE INTERMEDIARY SAID THAT DU INSISTED THAT THE PRG WANTS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE INTERMEDIARY BELIEVES THAT KEEPING THE U.S. EMBASSY OPEN REFLECTS A PRG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE "FICTION" OF A SEPARATE SOUTH VIETNAM.)

D. THAT DON FORM A GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES NON-COMMUNIST LEFT AND RECOGNIZED "THIRD-FORCE" POLITICIANS.

E. THAT THE PRG DO NOTHING TO BLOCK THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE OF "ALL VIETNAMESE WHO WANT TO LEAVE." VISAS WILL BE GRANTED FREELY AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. HUE AND DANANG ALSO WILL BE OPENED TO THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE; BUT, SAID DU, THE PRG WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE NOT TO LEAVE. DU

BELIEVES THAT, IF EVACUATION IS OPEN, THEN ONLY A SMALL NUMBER WILL ELECT TO LEAVE, POSSIBLY 50,000. DU ADDED THAT RESOLVING THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE EASIER AFTER THOSE WHO ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LEFT.

3. DU SAID THAT THE "NEXT WEEK OR TWO" ARE CRUCIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE SOLUTION. SAIGON "WILL BE SAFE THAT LONG," BUT IF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT STARTED, THE COMMUNISTS WILL "BE IN POSITION" TO TAKE OVER THE CITY. DU CONTINUED THAT A "TRANSITIONAL" GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN CONTROL FOR BETWEEN "SIX MONTHS AND ONE YEAR." THEN IT WILL TURN OVER POWER TO A COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION. THIS COUNCIL, DU SAID, WILL OVERSEE ELECTIONS IN "SOUTH VIETNAM." DU CLAIMED THAT THE NON-COMMUNISTS WILL BE OFFERED THE CHANCE TO RUN CANDIDATES. THE OUTCOME, CLAIMED DU, WILL BE A SOCIALIST REGIME "CONTROLLED BY HANOI."

4. ON 15 APRIL, THE INTERMEDIARY REPORTED THE MEETING TO DON. DON DID NOT COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE CONVERSATION BUT TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES. (SOURCE COMMENT: DON BELIEVES THAT HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO CONVINCe THIEU TO RESIGN "TO SAVE LIVES." THOUGH DON DID NOT INDICATE WHEN HE WOULD APPROACH THIEU ON THIS.)