Message Text

PAGE 01  STATE 060305
62
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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY MANILA
CINCPAC

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: APRIL 2 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. RICHARDSON TELLS , MEET THE PRESS“ BOMBING NECESSARY TO
KEEP GKR ALIVE AND PRESSURE COMMUNISTS INTO C- F. NYT’S
GWERTZMAN SAYS SECRETARY GOES FURTHER THAN PRESIDENT IN
WARNING HANOI OF RENEWED BOMBING OF NVN IN EVENT ITS
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PAGE 02  STATE 060305

VIOLATIONS OF VN AGREEMENT BECOME SERIOUS THREAT TO
PEACE. RICHARDSON DECLINES STATE US WOULD UNDER NO
CIRCUMSTANCES EVER SEND MILITARY FORCES BACK TO INDOCHINA, BUT SAYS "WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY." CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR KHMER BOMBING, HE SAYS, RESTS UPON FACT THAT CAMBODIA SITUATION IS "A KIND OF RESIDUE... THE AREA WHERE LEAST OF ALL THERE IS NOW BEING OBSERVED THE PROVISIONS OF THE (VN AGREEMENT)" (NYT, WP, SUN).

2. COMMUNISTS ATTACK TAKEO AND KEEP STRANGLE-HOLD ON LOCS INTO PP AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. CINCPAC ANNOUNCES US BOMBING AT GKR REQUEST (NYT, WP, SUN). GKR ARRESTS WITHOUT CHARGES 55 TOP KHMER ASTROLOGERS AFTER WIDESPREAD PREDICTIONS THAT LON NOL GOVERNMENT WON'T SURVIVE UNTIL END OF APRIL. LIKE MOST KHMER, LON NOL SAID TO BELIEVE ASTROLOGERS' PREDICTIONS (CSM).

3. CAPT. WHITE, LAST POW, RELEASED BY VC IN DELTA. WAS NOT UNTIL US OFFICER AT PICK-UP POINT TOOK HIS ARM AND SAID, "LET'S GO TO THE PLANE" THAT HE REALIZED HE HAD BEEN FREED (NYT, SUN).

4. GVN SAYS COMMUNIST SIEGE OF TON LE CHAN OUTPOST CONTINUES INTO FIFTH WEEK WITH DEFENDERS LOSING 100 KIA AND VNAF BOMBING COMMUNIST POSITIONS (NYT, SUN).

EX-POW CAPT. WILBER ACKNOWLEDGES IN TV INTERVIEW THAT HE MADE ANTIWAR STATEMENTS FOR NVN CAPTORS WITHOUT HAVING BEEN TORTURED IN FIVE YEARS OF CAPTIVITY. SAYS HE WON'T "DISBELIEVE OR REPUDIATE" TORTURE STORIES OF OTHER MEN, BUT BELIEVES "EACH PERSON HAS TO TELL HIS OWN STORY." WILBER SAYS PRESSURE OF CONSCIENCE MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT WAR WHILE IN PRISON. SOME EX-POWS MAY BRING COURT MARTIAL CHARGES AGAINST WILBER AND SOME OTHERS FOR THEIR ANTIWAR ACTIVITIES WHILE IN CAPTIVITY. CAPT. MULLIGAN SAYS, "ANY GUY WHO GOES TO HANOI AND GETS RELIGION ABOUT THE WAR AFTER HE'S SHOT DOWN IS A PURE PHONY" (HERSH, NYT; SUN; WP).

5. SWEDEN WON'T ACCEPT AMERICAN MILITARY DESERTERS NOW THAT VN WAR IS OVER, SAYS GOS IMMIGRATION CHIEF (NYT, WP, SUN).


7. NYT BIO OF AMB. GRAHAM MARTIN SAYS HE HIGHLY
REGARDED AS PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. BUT, ACCORDING ONE 
FSO, "FOR EVERY OFFICER WHO LIKES MARTIN, THERE IS ANOTHER 
ONE WHO DETESTS HIM." ANOTHER OFFICER SAYS MARTIN TAKES VERY 
SERIOUSLY BEING PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT, AND 
LETS ANYONE WHO MIGHT FORGET IT, KNOW IT. HIS ADOPTED SON 
WAS KILLED IN 1966 SVN AIR CRASH (NYT).

8. NHAN DAN SAYS TORTURE STORIES BY EX-POWS BEING 
DRUMMED UP TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM US "CRIMES" IN VN, 
AND CLAIMS DRV POW POLICY WAS "HUMANITARIAN" (SUN). 
SEN. BUCKLEY CALLS UPON SEC. ROGERS TO ISSUE "STRONGEST 
POSSIBLE PROTEST" TO HANOI OVER TREATMENT OF POWS AND 
URGES PRESIDENT "CAREFULLY RECONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL FOR 
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM IN LIGHT OF THE POW 
REPORTS OF TREATMENT AND PRISON CONDITIONS." MANSFIELD 
SAYS TORTURE STORIES DON’T AFFECT HIS POSITION ON AID 
TO NVN, BUT HE DOESN’T KNOW WHAT EFFECT THEY WILL HAVE 
ON PROSPECTS OF GETTING AID THROUGH CONGRESS (SUN).

9. CLARK AFB SOURCE SAYS CANADIAN RELEASEE OPPEL 
DESCRIBED HOW TWO AMERICAN WOMEN MISSIONARIES, EVELYN 
ANDERSON AND BEATRICE KOSIN, WERE TIED ALIVE TO POLE 
INSIDE HUT WHICH WAS THEN SET AFIRE. THEIR CHARRED 
BODIES WERE LATER FOUND AT KENGKOK IN SOUTHERN LAOS (WP).

10. RICHARDSON SAYS US GOAL IN KHMER BOMBING IS TO 
HASTEN C-F AND NOT PREVENT COMMUNIST POLITICAL TAKEOVER. 
SAYS IT HAS NEVER BEEN US OBJECTIVE TO "PREVENT BY 
PEACEFUL POLITICAL MEANS AN EVENTUAL TAKEOVER. TELLS 
"MEET THE PRESS" COLLAPSE OF GKR WOULD HAVE "SIGNIFICANT" 
EFFECT UPON VIABILITY OF GVN (WP).

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PAGE 04 STATE 060305

11. LAOTIANS SLOW TO CARRY OUT PEACE ACCORD, ACCORDING 
WP’S LIPPMAN. PHOUMI VONGVICHIT’S CONTINUED ABSENCE 
FROM TALKS PREVENTING AGREEMENT ON COMPOSITION OF 
GOVERNMENT. HANOI MAY BE CAUSING STALEMATE UNTIL IT 
SEES HOW THINGS GO IN SVN AND CAMBODIA. THERE ALSO 
MAY BE SPLIT IN PL OVER PEACE TERMS. US OFFICIALS IN 
VIENTIANE SEE NO SERIOUS THREAT FROM RIGHTISTS WHO 
HAVE NO RESOURCES OF THEIR OWN (WP).

12. NHAN DAN ACCUSES US OF SENDING SPY PLANES OVER NVN; 
RICHARDSON DENIES (WP).

13. CSM (MAR. 31) EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING OF CANADA’S 
RESERVATIONS ABOUT STAYING IN ICCS, IN VIEW OF CONFLICTS 
AMONG ICCS MEMBERS AND C-F VIOLATIONS, ALL OF WHICH 
ICCS CANNOT CHECK. HOWEVER, SITUATION IS NOT HOPELESS;
OTHERWISE, CANADA WOULD HAVE PULLED OUT INSTEAD OF AGREEING TO REMAIN ANOTHER 90 DAYS.

14. NYDN SAYS THROUGH RETURNED POWS WE CAN SEE THE TRUE FACE OF THE ENEMY - MERCELESS AND FULL OF HATE. WE MUST NEVER FORGET IT. FOR BEHIND THAT AWFUL VISAGE LIES THE WILL AND DETERMINATION TO TAKE FROM US EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR - FREEDOM, HONOR, JUSTICE AND PEACE."

15. MARQUIS CHILDS (SUN) OPINES THAT PRESIDENT'S TOUGH SPEECH, AND STORIES OF COMMunist TORTURE OF POWS WHICH APPEAR TO BE ORCHESTRATED BY DOD, COULD COMPLETELY TURN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST ANY HELP FOR SVN AS WELL AS NVN. THIEU IS HARDLY FIGURE TO COMMAND CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC APPROVAL TO REBUILD SVN, AND HIS PRESENCE IN US WILL ADD HIS FULL MEASURE OF OPPOSITION TO ANY ASSISTANCE TO NORTH. OBSERVES THAT CRIES FOR WAR-CRIMES TRIAL AGAINST TORTURES COULD BE FINAL BLOW TO ANY HOPE FOR PROGRAM THAT HAK NEGOTIATED IN HANOI. IT WOULD KEEP CAULDRON OF HATRED BOILING. MOREOVER, TRIAL COULD BRING UNDER SCRUTINY CARPET-BOMBING OF NORTH, INDIRECTIMATE USE OF NAPALM AGAINST CIVILIANS, SAIGON'S TIGER CAGES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND MY LAI. BIBLICAL INJUNCTION, "LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST STONE," HAS POWERFUL BEARING ON AFTERMATH OF LONGEST AND BITTEREST WAR IN AMERICA'S HISTORY. RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 060305

UNCLASSIFIED

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