

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA:MSTEARNS:FMT

APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

S/S - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 018390

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, CH, HK

SUBJECT: PARACEL ISLANDS

1. UPI IS CARRYING SAIGON DATELINE STORY STATING QUOTE
SOUTH VIETNAMESE WARSHIPS HAVE SURROUNDED PARACEL ISLANDS
...SAIGON MILITARY COMMAND ORDERED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF
COUNTRY'S NAVAL FORCES TO STEAM TO ARCHIPELAGO LOST TO
CHINA AFTER DAYS OF FIGHTING MORE THAN A WEEK AGO END QUOTE.

2. WE CONTINUE TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED LEST VIETNAMESE VENT
THEIR FRUSTRATION OVER PARACELS BY SOME IRRATIONAL
MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CHINESE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR ASSESSMENT OF GVN MOOD AND TACTICS AS WELL AS BEST
INFO YOU CAN DEVELOP ON VIETNAMESE AIR AND NAVAL ACTIVITY
IN GENERAL AREA OF THE PARACELS.

3. WE ARE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY
HERE, CAUTIONING THEM THAT RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION BY
GVN AGAINST CHINESE WOULD NOT ONLY UNDERCUT OUR EFFORTS
ON BEHALF PRISONERS AND WOUNDED, BUT WOULD ALSO WORK
SECRET

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DIRECTLY AGAINST OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE SUFFICIENT
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM FROM
CONGRESS.

4. WE KNOW THAT YOU SHARE OUR CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF PARCELS DISPUTE AND APPRECIATE ACTIONS YOU HAVE BEEN TAKING TO CALM VIETNAMESE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED CLOSEST POSSIBLE READING OF THEIR PLANS AND INTENTIONS AND YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO RESTRAIN THEM IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS. PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM THIEU IS BEING DRAFTED AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REINFORCE THESE POINTS IN FRIENDLY BUT UNEQUIVOCAL LANGUAGE. KISSINGER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE018390
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA:MSTEARNS:FMT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750004-0437
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740175/abbrzcbi.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <01-Aug-2001 by maustmc, RDFRD>; RELEASED <19 DEC 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARACEL ISLANDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, VM
To: SAIGON INFO HONG KONG
PEKING
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005