

## 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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O 282327Z JAN 74

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