

Message Text

SECRET

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R 072204Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
USSAG
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 094148

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:MOPS, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT:FOREIGN TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND PRISONER EXCHANGE
IN LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 5359

1. BEFORE CONSIDERING MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR USG TO URGE
NORTH VIETNAM TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS WE THINK IT
IMPORTANT THAT SOUVANNA FOCUS ON THIS PROBLEM AND MAKE
HIS VIEWS KNOWN PRIVATELY TO OTHER SIDE AND, IF
NECESSARY, PUBLICLY TO A LARGER AUDIENCE. OUR PROMPT
COMPLIANCE WITH LAO PROTOCOL MAKES THIS EVEN MORE
NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

2. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH
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SOUVANNA AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, EXPRESSING AT THE SAME

TIME US CONCERN AT HARD-NOSED COMMUNIST TACTICS AND SOLICITING HIS VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT LPF PRESSURE ON CONSTITUTION DAY ACTIVITIES AND AGAINST OPENING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO HIS OWN LEVERAGE REGARDING NVA WITHDRAWALS AS WELL AS PL COOPERATION ON THE POW/MIA ISSUES.

3. IN ANY CASE, WITH THE 60-DAY WITHDRAWAL PERIOD HALF OVER, IT SEEMS TO US TIMELY FOR HIM TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO COMMUNIST SIDE AND EXERT PRESSURE ON

DRV TO REMOVE ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM LAOS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIENTIANE PEACE AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS THE PARIS ACCORDS. SOUVANNA COULD IN THIS CONNECTION REFER TO US AND THAI TROOP WITHDRAWALS, EXPRESSING THE EXPECTATION THAT THE DRV WOULD SIMILARLY COMPLY WITH THE ACCORDS.

4. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DISCUSS WITH SOUVANNA THE CONTENTIOUS PL PROPAGANDA(VIENTIANE 3327) WHICH CAN ONLY EXACERBATE THE LOCAL LAO SITUATION AND ALSO IGNORES THE MANY ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE US, OF WHICH THE PL ARE FULLY AWARE, AND WHICH HAVE ASSISTED IN REACHING THE CURRENT PEACEFUL CONDITIONS.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LAO AMBASSADOR TO PARIS, KHAMPHAN PANYA WILL BE RETURNING TO VIENTIANE AFTER THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. KHAMPHAN WAS RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON AND HAD A LONG CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASST. SECY STEARNS DURING WHICH HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN VIENTIANE AND HIS PESSIMISM ABOUT SECURING DRV COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACCORDS. KHAMPHAN CAN THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO REINFORCE YOUR REPRESENTATIONS WHEN HE TALKS TO SOUVANNA. HE ALSO EXPECTS AN AUDIENCE WITH

THE KING AND WILL SEEK TO MAKE SAME POINTS.
RUSH

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NNN

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