

[138/02/13]

SECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

[redacted] described the proceedings of 27 July 1969 Presidium meeting of the National Social Democratic Forces in which President Thieu participated. Attached hereto is a paragraph [redacted] copied from our source's original version of this [redacted]. This paragraph recounts Thieu's remarks on his 1 July peace proposal. Because of this subject's sensitivity, this paragraph is receiving only limited distribution. In Manila, dissemination is being limited to you and Secretary Rogers; and, in Washington, is being sent only to Secretary Laird, General Wheeler and Deputy Assistant Secretary Sullivan.

Rich
 Richard Helms 25 July 1969
 (DATE)

SECRET/SENSITIVE

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138/02/13
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25 July 1969

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: President Thieu's Comments on his 11 July Peace Proposal Before the 22 July National Social Democratic Front Presidium Meeting

Thieu devoted almost an hour to discussing his peace proposal of 11 July, which he called a solution, not an initiative. In explaining this distinction, Thieu said there were only two solutions. One was to fight on until the level of fighting gradually died down. The other was a negotiated solution. Now for the first time, Thieu said the Government of Vietnam had a position with the U.S. This position gave the U.S. another choice between the two extremes of advice which President Nixon was receiving. These extremes, according to Thieu, were the setting up of a coalition government or the dropping of a nuclear bomb on North Vietnam. Thus, Thieu continued, it helped President Nixon and made a good impression on American and world opinion. Unfortunately, Thieu said this impression had been marred somewhat by subsequent statements of Foreign Minister Tran Chanh Thanh and Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky. Within South Vietnam, the masses welcomed the solution, but the extremists did not. Thieu was asked to consult with the Presidium before taking grave decisions such as the peace proposal. However, Thieu's reply made it clear that he was not committed to do this.