MEMORANDUM FOR D. HENRY A. KISSINGER

July 25, 1969

This paragraph recounts Thieu's remarks as I understood them.

Thieu said that the July cease-fire proposal had been rejected by the DRV. Because of this rejection, he wanted to discuss a new proposal for a more limited distribution of the July cease-fire. In Hanoi, the DRV delegation was willing to accept

Richard Helms

DATE

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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2015-072, document no. 2
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: November 21, 2017
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.

SECRET/SENSITIVE