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FM FCO 201738Z JUL 79

TO IMMEDIATE UKMIS GENEVA

TELEGRAM NO 165 OF 20 JULY 1979

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK AND GOVERNOR HONG KONG
PRIORITY ALL EEC POSTS, OTTAWA, CANBERRA, KUALA LUMPUR, BANGKOK
SINGAPORE, MANILA, JAKARTA, TOKYO,
INFO SAVING HANOI.

Prime Minister

Shi 23/7

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MEETING WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE: INDO-CHINA REFUGEES

1. I HAD A TALK WITH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE IN GENEVA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HOLBROOKE AND AARON.
2. MONDALE SHARED MY ASSESSMENT THAT THE VIETNAMESE, APART FROM "OFFERING TO HAVE THE WEST DO MORE" WERE SHOWING APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO CO-OPERATE IN ORDER TO DEFLECT CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF ASEAN COUNTRIES.
3. MONDALE SAID THAT IN HIS OWN SPEECH TO THE CONFERENCE HE WOULD ANNOUNCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS ASSIGNING 4 SHIPS AND HALF AN AIRCRAFT SQUADRON TO INDO-CHINA FOR REFUGEE RELIEF WORK. HE WOULD ALSO ANNOUNCE INCREASED U S FUNDS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HELP THEM COPE WITH REFUGEES: HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PHILLIPINES' OFFER OF A TRANSIT CENTRE FOR 50,000. MONDALE SAID HE WOULD ALSO HAVE A TOUGH SECTION ON VIETNAM TO PUT THEM BACK ON THE DEFENSIVE. HE WAS THINKING OF INCLUDING A REQUEST FOR A MORATORIUM ON REFUGEE EXODUS FROM VIETNAM. HE WAS UNAWARE, UNTIL I TOLD HIM, THAT THE FRENCH HAD ALREADY MADE THIS SUGGESTION.
4. I POINTED OUT THE DANGERS OF PUTTING RESCUE SHIPS IN THE AREA, IE CREATION OF AN ADDITIONAL FLOW OF REFUGEES WITH THE ATTENDANT RISK OF EVEN MORE PERISHING AT SEA. MONDALE SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WERE ANXIOUS THAT THE SHIPS SHOULD NOT BE A MAGNET FOR REFUGEES. THEY WERE NOT PROVIDING A SAFETY NET. THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE SHIPS WOULD BE TO TAKE REFUGEES FROM COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM TO TRANSIT CENTRES. HOWEVER, IF THE SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT SPOTTED BOATS IN TROUBLE THEN THE SHIPS

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WOULD HELP OUT, THE LARGE NUMBERS DROWNING HAD BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR FOR THEM.

5. WE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF FOLLOW-UP TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. WE BOTH THOUGHT WE NEED NOT BE DETERRED BY A SOVIET VETO, BUT WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE SOME ASEAN SUPPORT AND ALSO TO WORK ON THE FRENCH. WE SHALL BE FOLLOWING THIS UP WITH THE AMERICANS WHO WERE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN WE ARE THAT ASEAN AND NON ALIGNED SUPPORT CAN BE OBTAINED FOR AN APPROACH TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

6. HOLBROOKE SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING, FOLLOWING THE ANZUS MEETING, HE HAD PRESSED THE CHINESE TO TAKE UP TO 10,000 REFUGEES A MONTH AND ACCEPT A PROCESSING CENTRE ON CHINESE SOIL. BUT THEY HAD REACTED SHARPLY TO AMERICAN SUGGESTIONS ON THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. HUANG HUA HAD TOLD HOLBROOKE THAT CHINA OUGHT TO KEEP FIGHTING, AS SHOULD THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS CLEAR THAT CHINA WISHED TO ESTABLISH AN ANTI-VIETNAM FRONT AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES, STARTING WITH THAILAND. HOLBROOKE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FATAL FOR THAILAND TO GET DRAWN IN BUT FORTUNATELY THE THAIS THOUGHT SO TOO. THE AMERICANS WERE THINKING ABOUT CALLING SOME KIND OF NEW GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT FELT THAT THE MOMENT WAS NOT RIGHT. FOR THE TIME BEING THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. CY VANCE SAW THIS AS THE WAY TO STABILITY IN THE REGION BUT THE CHINESE ATTITUDE MEANT THAT THERE WAS NOW A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS, THOUGH UNPUBLICISED, DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN THEM AND THE UNITED STATES.

7. I URGED ON MONDALE THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE MORE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG. HOLBROOKE ADMITTED THAT HONG KONG HAD SUFFERED BECAUSE, IN CONTRAST TO MALAYSIA AND THAILAND, THE REFUGEES WERE WELL TREATED THERE. MOREOVER THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG WAS MORE RECENT THAN THAT IN THAILAND. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT HONG KONG WOULD INEVITABLY BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED U S INTAKE OF REFUGEES IF THE PHILIPPINES TRANSIT CENTRE WERE ESTABLISHED THE U S MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE

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THOUSANDS MORE FROM HONG KONG. MONDALE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT THE FIGURES AND TO ASSESS THE CRITERIA ON WHICH ADMISSIONS TO THE U S WERE DECIDED.

CARRINGTON

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PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF

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MR CORTAZZI

MR MURRAY

MR STRATTON

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MR FRETWELL

ADDITIONAL DISTN

BOAT PEOPLE

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