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DIST 10 NOVEMBER 1977

COUNTRY VIETNAM

DOI EARLY OCTOBER 1977

SUBJECT STATEMENTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
(SRV) FOREIGN MINISTER ON DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SRV
POLITICAL BUREAU REGARDING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S.

1. IN LATE OCTOBER 1977,

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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(class/location)

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY T R I N H. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THAT TWO FACTIONS CONTINUED TO EXIST WITHIN THE POLITICAL BUREAU, ONE WHICH BELIEVED THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SRV AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE TIED TO AID FROM THE U.S. AND THE OTHER, WHICH HAD BECOME STRONGER IN RECENT MONTHS, WHICH BELIEVED THAT NORMAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITH THE U.S. FIRST, AND AID WOULD FOLLOW AS A NATURAL RESULT. THIS LATTER TENDENCY WAS SUPPORTED BY PREMIER PHAM VAN D O N G, ACCORDING TO TRINH, [REDACTED]

COMMENT: [REDACTED] IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT TRINH HIMSELF BELONGED TO THE FACTION LED BY PHAM VAN DONG,)

2. TRINH INDICATED, [REDACTED] THAT THIS BASIC DISAGREEMENT HAD BEEN THE CAUSE OF FREQUENT DISPUTES AMONG POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS AND HAD CREATED A SENSE OF MALAISE AMONG THEM. DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ALSO EXIST AMONG POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS REGARDING HOW TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM, DIVIDING THE POLITICAL BUREAU ON THIS ISSUE ALONG ROUGHLY THE SAME LINES AS ON THE U.S. RELATIONS/AID ISSUE: PHAM VAN DONG AND HIS SUPPORTERS,

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NOTABLY VICE PREMIER LE THANH N G H I ON THE ONE SIDE AND LE D U A N AND TRUONG C H I N H, WHO REMAIN INTRANSIGENT, ON THE OTHER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE NATURE OF THIS DISAGREEMENT, SUCH AS WHAT MEASURES EACH FACTION WAS ADVOCATING TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN VIETNAM.)

3. REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., TRINH TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SINCE THE SRV HAD RECENTLY RETURNED 22 AMERICAN REMAINS, IT WAS WASHINGTON'S TURN TO MAKE A GESTURE, BUT THAT AS OF EARLY OCTOBER THE U.S. HAD GIVEN NO SIGNS. TRINH SAID THAT THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION WERE OPEN, AS CONTACTS STILL EXIST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SRV EMBASSIES IN PARIS.

4. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] TRINH LISTED THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE SRV, IN ORDER OF PRIORITY:

- A. EXHAUSTION OF STOCKS OF FOOD SUPPLIES IN VIETNAM
- B. PERSISTENT TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM
- C. BORDER INCIDENTS WITH ^{DEMOCRATIC} CAMBODIA, SUPPORTED, TRINH MAINTAINED, BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)
- D. TRYING TO MAINTAIN A DIPLOMATIC EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN

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(classification)

THE USSR AND THE PRC

E. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., RELEGATED TO FIFTH RANK, TRINH SAID, BECAUSE OF AMERICAN RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID TO VIETNAM.

5.



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