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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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DECLASSIFIED DEC 16 2009
Authority: EO 12958 as amended
Chief, DoD Ofc of Security Review

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SUBIC CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED 1000 SUCH MINES FROM JAPAN BUT SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY SENT TO SUBIC. HE SAID THAT SHIPMENTS ORDERED BY CINCPACFLT AND THAT THEY OVER AND ABOVE SUBIC'S NORMAL INVENTORY.

B. NAVY CAPT HIHN, CO NAD CHRLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, WHO IS IN FAR EAST AS HEAD OF MINE READINESS INSPECTION TEAM, HAPPENED TO BE AT SUBIC ON SAME DAY AS PINCUS AND PAUL. HE ALSO CALLED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH THEM. HE CONFIRMED SHIPMENT TO SUBIC AND SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF REASON FOR SHIPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD INSPECTED MINES AND FOUND THEM IN GOOD CONDITION (I.E., NOT IN NEED OF REPAIR). WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS OTHER ACTIVITIES AT SUBIC, CAPT. HIHN SAID THAT HE HAD RUN SIX DAYS OF TRAINING EXERCISES ON THE ARMING AND PREPARATION OF MINES FOR AIRDROP.

C. DURING VISIT TO USS ORISKANY, WHICH WAS IN PORT AT SUBIC, PAUL ASKED CO WHAT PILOTS DID IN PORT. CO SAID THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS PILOTS DID TRAINING EXERCISES TO KEEP UP THEIR SKILLS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT KIND OF EXERCISES BEING CONDUCTED THIS VISIT, CO SAID THAT THEY WERE AERIAL MINE LAYING EXERCISE.

D. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PINCUS AND PAUL MENTIONED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON, IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH, HAD SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MINING NVN WATERS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AREA IN VICINITY HAIPHONG.

3. COMMENT: EVENTS RECOUNTED ABOVE MAY BE ENTIRELY COINCIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, IN VIEW CONCERN PINCUS AND PAUL REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATED ABOUT MILITARY ACTIONS THAT COULD INCREASE OUR COMMITMENTS GENERALLY OR LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM, BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE GET OUR FACTS STRAIGHT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CINCPAC ALERTED THROUGH NAVY CHANNELS.

4. [REDACTED]

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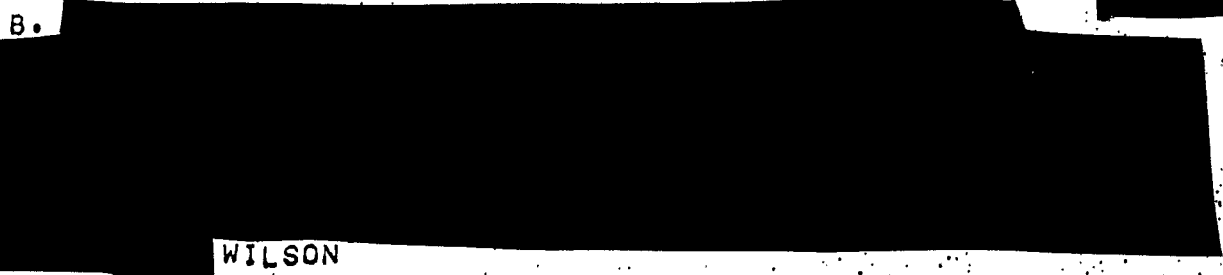
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B.

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