

# MR MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 3972				
Document ID: 0005614				
Row: 43	Section: 3	Shelf: 5	Position: 1	Stack: V

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001. memcon</del>	<del>Memorandum of Conversation re: Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (2 pages)</del>	<del>09/06/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> KBH 11/6/2025

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
NSC Records Management  
([Memcon and Vietnam])  
OA/Box Number: 3972

### FOLDER TITLE:

0005614

2023-0466-M  
kh2063

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

#### Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0005614  
RECEIVED: 06 SEP 00 13

TO: BERGER

CHRON FILE

FROM: LIEBERTHAL  
PRITCHARD

DOC DATE: 06 SEP 00  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM

MEMCON

PERSONS: TRAN DUC LUONG

SUBJECT: MEMCON W/ LUONG OF VIETNAM ON 6 SEP

ACTION: BERGER APPROVED RECOM 2

DUE DATE: 12 SEP 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: LIEBERTHAL

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

EXECSEC

FICKLIN

NSC CHRON

PRITCHARD

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTCG CLOSED BY: NSGP DOC 1 OF 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)  
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006  
By KBNARA, Date 7/24/2024  
2023-0766-M

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0005614

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 BERGER  
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 00090712 FOR DECISION  
X 00090811 BERGER APPROVED RECOM 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: (Signature) LOG # 5014  
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_ SYSTEM (Circled) INT ARS  
 BYPASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_ DOCLOG (Circled) A/O \_\_\_\_\_

<u>(Circled)</u>	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
GIRE	_____	_____	_____
HAAS	_____	_____	<u>(Circled)</u>
POWELL	<u>1</u>	<u>EP 9/7</u>	<u>see edit</u>
BASH	_____	_____	_____
BRADTKE	<u>2</u>	<u>PM 9/8</u>	<u>file in record only</u>
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

SEP 7 1983

COMMENTS: Mention w/pres. Tran Duc Luong  
9/6

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

September 6, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: KENNETH LIEBERTHAL *KL*

FROM: JACK PRITCHARD *J.P.*

SUBJECT: Memcon with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam  
on September 6, 2000

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)  
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2001  
By KBH NARA, Date 7/24/2024  
2023-0966-M

Attached at Tab A is the Memorandum of Conversation between the President and President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam on September 6, 2000.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Robert Bradtke to transmit the Memorandum of Conversation at Tab A to State.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove DNA  
for SRBTRAB

That the attached Memorandum of Conversation be filed for the record.

Approve DNA Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_  
for SRBTRAB

Attachments

- Tab I Memorandum to State
- Tab A Memorandum of Conversation

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. KRISTIE A. KENNEY  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation with President Tran  
Duc Luong of Vietnam (U)

The attached Memorandum of Conversation between the President  
and President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam is provided for the  
information of the Secretary of State. It must be distributed  
via NODIS channels and not below the Assistant Secretary (DAS)  
level. It may also be sent to our embassy in Vietnam for the  
Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission only. (C)

Robert A. Bradtke  
Executive Secretary

Attachment  
Tab A Memorandum of Conversation

DO NOT TRANSMIT

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)  
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2001  
By KBH NARA, Date 5/24/2024  
2023-0466-m

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2023-0466-M (1.01)  
KBH 11/8/2024

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State  
Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Jack Pritchard, Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (Notetaker)  
Sean Son Lam (Interpreter)

Tran Duc Luong, President of Vietnam  
Nguyen Dy Nien, Foreign Minister  
Le Bang, Ambassador  
Nguyen Thanh Chau, Ambassador to the United Nations

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 6, 2000, 10:20 - 10:35 a.m.  
Indonesia Lounge, UN General Assembly

President Luong: Thank you for the opportunity to meet. (U)

The President: I am honored to see you. I had a good visit with your prime minister at APEC last year in Auckland. (U)

President Luong: I am well aware that your prestige and foresight made many important decisions possible, from the lifting of obstacles that led to diplomatic relations and ending with the Bilateral Trade Agreement. I am thankful you reserved time to appear during the signing ceremony of the Bilateral Trade Agreement. Now it is time for our two parliaments to approve and execute the agreement. I understand the current circumstance of your election will not allow passage this year.

(S)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke  
Reason: 1.5 (d)  
Declassify On: 09/06/10

I understand that you will travel to southeast Asia for APEC. I would like to officially extend an invitation for you to visit Vietnam. If it is possible, your visit will be of great importance to the general situation in the region. Vietnam is committed to Doi Moi (New Way). We are committed to an open foreign policy and will work with everyone. We have more to do, but what we have achieved so far is important. (S)

The President: First, let me thank you for your remarks. We have all worked hard for a new, long-term relationship. I am pleased about the Bilateral Trade Agreement. Our election may prevent a vote this year, but do not worry. We have broad, bipartisan support for the agreement, and it will pass easily. I would like to come to Vietnam. I will be in the region for APEC. It would help if we did not make any public announcement now while I work on my schedule. Our officials can work together on the official announcement. I am honored to be invited. (S)

President Luong: We will have an opportunity to discuss other things when you visit. I want to assure you that the Vietnamese leadership is eager to welcome your visit. (U)

The President: Thank You. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

# MIR MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 4114				
Document ID: 0007384				
Row: 47	Section: 3	Shelf: 3	Position: 3	Stack: V

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a. memcon</del>	<del>Memorandum of Conversation re: Meeting with Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam (6 pages)</del>	<del>11/18/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1) KBH 11/6/2025</del>
<del>001b. memcon</del>	<del>Memorandum of Conversation re: Meeting with Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam; incomplete draft (2 pages)</del>	<del>11/18/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1) KBH 11/6/2025</del>

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 ([Memcon and Vietnam])  
 OA/Box Number: 4114

**FOLDER TITLE:**

0007384

2023-0466-M

kh2064

**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
  
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 0007384  
RECEIVED: 01 DEC 00 18

TO: KENNEY, K

FROM: BRADTKE

DOC DATE: 08 DEC 00  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: VIETNAM

MEMCON

PERSONS: LE KHA PHIEU

SUBJECT: MEMCON W/ CHMN OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM

*18 NOV*

ACTION: BRADTKE SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 07 DEC 00 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHRISTY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

EXECSEC  
FICKLIN  
PRITCHARD

*NSC CHROW*

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSAMK CLOSED BY: NSATW DOC 2 OF 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)  
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006  
By *KBH* NARA, Date *4/24/2024*  
*2023-0416-m*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 0007384

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BERGER  
002

Z 00120412 FOR DECISION  
X 00120815 BRADTKE SGD MEMO

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

002 001208 KENNEY, KRISTIE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

THE WHITE HOUSE

PROOFED BY: JD LOG # 7304  
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: \_\_\_\_\_ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS  
 BYPASSED WW DESK: \_\_\_\_\_ DOCLOG 8 A/O \_\_\_\_\_

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>3</u> GIRE	_____	_____	_____
HAAS	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	<u>1</u>	<u>SB 12/6</u>	<u>see edits</u>
BASH	_____	_____	_____
BRADTKE	<u>2</u>	<u>Fix Return</u> <u>Done 12-8</u>	_____
RUDMAN	_____	_____	_____
KERRICK	_____	_____	_____
BERGER	_____	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>3</u>	<u>SM 12/8</u>	<u>D</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

CC:

700 DEC 4 11:28

COMMENTS:

Memoranda - Vietnam - 18 NOV

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE ag

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

December 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. KRISTIE A. KENNEY  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation with Le Kha Phieu,  
Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam

The attached Memorandum of Conversation between the President and Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam, is provided for the information of the Secretary of State. It must be distributed via NODIS channels and not below the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) level. It may also be sent to our embassy in Vietnam for the Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission only.



Robert A. Bradtke  
Executive Secretary

Attachment  
Tab A Memorandum of Conversation

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2023-0466-M (1.02)  
KBM 11/8/2024

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Pete Peterson, Ambassador to Vietnam  
John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff  
Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for National Economic Affairs  
Gene B. Christy, Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (notetaker)

Le Kha Phieu, Communist Party Chairman  
Nguyen Dzy Nien, Foreign Minister  
Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade  
Nguyen Van Son, Head of the Central Committee for Foreign Affairs  
Nguyen Dinh Bin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Le Van Bang, Ambassador to the United States  
Nguyen Manh Hung, Director for Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nguyen Trung (notetaker)  
Tran Thanh Huan (notetaker)  
Luong Van Ly (interpreter)

DATE, TIME November 18, 2000, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
AND PLACE: Communist Party of Vietnam Headquarters, Hanoi, Vietnam

The President: I enjoyed my meetings yesterday with President Luong and Prime Minister Khai. Thank you for the warm reception you extended me and my family. The cultural performance last night was an excellent display of Vietnamese talent. (U)

(Members of the Press depart)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke  
Reason: 1.5 (d)  
Declassify On: 12/1/2010

Chairman Phieu: Please begin. (U)

The President: I appreciate the work we have done together over the past several years. The normalization process is nearly complete. I was able to visit the excavation site where our people are working together to find the remains of missing American servicemen. This event is already running on American television networks. So there is a lot of good feeling toward the Vietnamese people in the United States now. (U)

The some 360,000 pages of documents I delivered to President Luong can assist you in the search for your own missing from the war. There will be more documents to come in about a month. I hope we will continue to work together. We need to share what is in our archives. Our efforts to find the missing are important because they bring our people closer together. (U)

I was also pleased that the United States has been able to work with you and provide disaster assistance for flooding over the past two years. USAID is funding a project through the UN Development Program to establish a disaster warning system in central Vietnam. (U)

I want to raise two points of some sensitivity:

We in the United States believe there is a close connection between stronger economic growth and greater openness. We hope in the future that our relationship will sustain a dialogue on human rights and religious freedom. Of course, your people need to do what is right for them. But, we want to continue to work together with you on these issues. (U)

Regarding China, I know there are some officials there who are troubled by the prospect of the United States and Vietnam getting closer. However, I have told President Jiang that our relations with you are not aimed at China. They are about building a better relationship with you. The United States wants a peaceful and prosperous Asia. That is the basis of all our activities in the region, and the basis for our progress with China. (U)

I have been very pleased with my trip. I welcome the progress made in the relationship over the past eight years. I will strongly encourage my successor to build on this relationship. Of course, this is something we will have to do together in accordance with your wishes, as well. (U)

Chairman Phieu: I welcome you and your family. The Vietnamese state and people highly appreciate what you have done over your two terms. You have made a valuable contribution to promotion of relations between our two countries. (U)

I was briefed on your talks with President Luong and Prime Minister Khai yesterday. The Vietnamese people followed your speech at Hanoi National University. You were welcomed at the university with applause and an invitation to return. I have also heard that people approached you on the street and asked you to come back again. (U)

I learned that in meetings with President Luong and Prime Minister Khai, you were straightforward in making your points. Naturally, to have better relations, we need to understand each other better. And, indeed, we have come to understand one another better during your term. This has permitted our relations to improve. And this gives hope for the future. (U)

We all have wishes to resolve the issues you just raised. For instance, it has been proposed to have annual economic meetings at high levels. Such meetings will permit discussions. And, from economic issues, it may be possible to move to other issues. (U)

Regarding the possible impact of U.S.-Vietnam relations on China, I do not think there was any impact. We now have diplomatic relations with 170 nations. Our party also has ties with Communist parties, socialist parties, and other political parties. We also trade with more than 150 countries. We have joined most international organizations except the WTO, which we will join eventually. We have ties with many nations, of which the United States is only one. (U)

We have even suggested to China that if they can offer high technology, they may work in our oil and gas sector. China is a big market, so our trade has grown. (U)

During my trip to France, Italy, and other European Union countries, it was agreed that where trade flourishes, there will be softer political feelings. We have agreed with these states not to link political conditions to trade. And, we have reassured China that our inviting you here has no impact on our relations. (U)

As I listened to your speech, I was struck by its straightforwardness and frankness. And I took note that you

contrasted Americans calling our war the "Vietnam war," while we call it the "anti-American war." We do not see it this way. We think we established peace in 1954. The country was not divided. There was a temporary demarcation line. However, Diem did not implement the Geneva Accords by holding elections in two years. In fact, there was no compliance ever, even though we called for elections under international supervision. (e)

Not only that, but Diem went further and claimed a border at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. It was irrational of him to say the border should be extended that far. We were thus freed to launch a war because a peaceful resolution was not possible. (e)

Over the past one thousand years, even though Vietnam is made up of 54 ethnic groups, we have all been born of one mother. We have to understand our roots, as well as the origins of the war. There were many American who opposed the war, and we enjoyed the support of the majority of the world's people. We need to draw lessons from the past. Even former Defense Secretary McNamara has come to appreciate this. We believe America will not repeat the past, and we should look to the future. (e)

Regarding reconciliation, after 1975, we needed to heal the wounds of war. I need to mention this, because this is our first meeting. We were at war for 30 years. We emerged from it with our economy in tatters. (e)

We have learned lessons from others about socialism. Now, we are embarked on a course to create a better socialism. And we have learned to promote social and other aspects of life. I think you can understand the situation in the 1980's when we had to import millions of tons of rice. We could only produce 4 million tons of rice annually in the Delta. Thanks to renewal, we now produce 20 million tons per year. We have even been able to supply rice to Cuba and North Korea to help them meet their food needs. Now, we can help others. And we are firm in our practice of socialism. The Eastern Europeans were not as successful. As I observed to Secretary Albright, our socialism has not only survived, but also prospered. (e)

We have been asked why we are privatizing. We have many sectors, like the state sector as in France. We have a cooperative sector, with farmers given more independence to own land. We also have a sector for private investment. All these sectors are treated equally, as long as they respect the law. We do not ban the private sector. And the economy is not

composed solely of the state sector. There is a 100 percent foreign investment sector. (S)

All of this is a kind of richness. It shows we have picked the correct way. (S)

And we rely on our own resources. We have a vast labor force, seventy percent of whom are engaged in farming. We have many natural resources. And we have strong maritime roots. Our level of education is not weak. All of these are the internal strengths we must promote. We must be masters in our own country. Our doors are wide open. We have relations with many nations. (S)

Regarding the current and future relationship with the United States, I believe that with continued understanding, relations will be fine. I believe we can have good relations. We can build on our Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and cooperate in building a knowledge-based economy for Vietnam. (S)

I read that 300 companies have much of the world's wealth, and the gap between rich and poor countries is growing. The Bilateral Trade Agreement sees us as a developing country still at a low level. I think it would be better if the wealthy United States could give a helping hand to developing and least developed states. We need to ensure that a knowledge-based economy does not deepen the divide between rich and poor. When we are on an equal economic footing, then we will have political equality. (S)

It is possible to have good relations, even if we do not have the same system. You can visit here, even if we have a Communist Party leadership. I foresee even better relations between our two countries. And as for the American people, the Vietnamese people are grateful to them. We remember the images of anti-war protesters. As I watched television yesterday and saw Chelsea and Hillary in a village, I was reminded of the visit of the wife and daughter of the war protester Morrison (note: Norman Morrison, the man who self-immolated in front of the Pentagon). These activities symbolize the relations between our two peoples. (S)

I hope the Bilateral Trade Agreement will soon be ratified by both sides. I hope we will have the basis for further cooperation. (Points to his watch) I understand you are on a tight schedule and are due at a follow-on event. (S)

The President: I want to make a few brief points:

I think it is important that we continue to heal the wounds of war. I had detailed conversations with your president and prime minister about what we can do on Agent Orange and humanitarian demining cooperation. I assure you we want to continue to make progress. (S)

I agree the United States has a responsibility to try to close the gap between rich and poor nations. We have pioneered efforts to bridge the digital divide and to address the HIV/AIDS crisis. I believe these will help. (S)

Regarding the history of the two countries over the past 50 years, I know there has been much disagreement in the United States over the nature of the conflict in Vietnam. The people who fought in Vietnam, such as Ambassador Peterson, believed they were fighting for freedom and self-determination of the Vietnamese people. They were sure they were doing the right thing. But that is history, and the interesting thing is that now, we are making progress. We are free to discuss and to explore questions that were off limits before. It is possible to debate the right balance between the state and private sectors. And it is possible to discuss our differing concepts of the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. (S)

I hope our shared history will help us work on such problems successfully. (U)

Chairman Phieu: Exactly. But it is clear that Vietnam never brought troops to fight Americans on their soil, so it is not fair to say that we fought a war against the United States. I think these kinds of meetings are needed for deeper discussions. I would like to suggest that you are always welcome to come here. The warm welcome our people have afforded you shows how we feel. (U)

The President: When I am no longer President, I would enjoy coming back for a lengthier discussion. (S)

-- End of Conversation --

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 0007384  
DATE 08 DEC 00

SUBJECT: MEMCON W/ CHMN OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM  
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	DATE	TIME	SIGNATURE
KENNEY, KRISTIE	_____	_____	_____

PRINT LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COPY: 1 \_\_\_\_\_

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)  
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006  
By KRM/NARA, Date 7/24/2024  
2023-0466-M

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT, ROOM 379 OEOB  
PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

December 4, 2000

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: JACK PRITCHARD *JH*

FROM: GENE CHRISTY *GC*

SUBJECT: Memcon with Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam on November 18, 2000

Attached at Tab A is the Memorandum of Conversation between the President and Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam on November 18, 2000.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Robert Bradtke to transmit the Memorandum of Conversation at Tab A to State.

Approve *APB 12/8* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

That the attached Memorandum of Conversation be filed for the record.

Approve *APB 12/8* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

- Tab I Memorandum to State
- Tab A Memorandum of Conversation

UNCLASSIFIED

Reason: 1.5 (d)

Declassify On: 12/4/2010

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. KRISTIE A. KENNEY  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation with Le Kha Phieu,  
Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam ~~(U)~~

The attached Memorandum of Conversation between the President and Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam, is provided for the information of the Secretary of State. It must be distributed via NODIS channels and not below the Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) level. It may also be sent to our embassy in Vietnam for the Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission only.

Robert A. Bradtke  
Executive Secretary

Attachment  
Tab A Memorandum of Conversation

UNCLASSIFIED

*w/ ~~confidential~~ attachment*  
Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke

Reason: 1.5 (d)

Declassify On: 12/4/2010

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526

2023-0466-7 (1.03)  
KBN 11/8/2021

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Le Kha Phieu, Chairman of the Communist Party of Vietnam (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
*Pete* ~~Douglas~~ Peterson, Ambassador to Vietnam  
John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff  
Samuel Berger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for National Economic Affairs  
Gene B. Christy, Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (notetaker)

Le Kha Phieu, Communist Party Chairman  
Nguyen Dzy Nien, Foreign Minister  
Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade  
Nguyen Van Son, Head of the Central Committee for Foreign Affairs  
Nguyen Dinh Bin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Le Van Bang, Ambassador to the United States  
Nguyen Manh Hung, Director for Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nguyen Trung (notetaker)  
Tran Thanh Huan (notetaker)  
Luong Van Ly (interpreter)

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: November 18, 2000, 4:30 ~~P.M.~~ - 5:30 ~~P.M.~~ ✓  
Communist Party of Vietnam Headquarters, Hanoi, Vietnam

The President: I enjoyed my meetings yesterday with President Luong and Prime Minister Khai. Thank you for the warm reception you extended me and my family. The cultural performance last night was an excellent display of Vietnamese talent. (U)

(Members of the Press depart)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke  
Reason: 1.5 (d)  
Declassify On: 12/1/2010

contrasted Americans calling our war the "Vietnam war," while we call it the "anti-American war." We do not see it this way. We think we established peace in 1954. The country was not divided. There was a temporary demarcation line. However, Diem did not implement the Geneva Accords by holding elections in two years. In fact, there was no compliance ever, even though we called for elections under international supervision. (S)

Not only that, but Diem went further and claimed a border at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. It was irrational of him to say the border should be extended that far. We were thus freed to launch a war because a peaceful resolution was not possible. (S)

Over the past one thousand years, even though Vietnam is made up of 54 ethnic groups, we have all been born of one mother. We have to understand our roots, as well as the origins of the war. There were many American who opposed the war, and we enjoyed the support of the majority of the world's people. We need to draw lessons from the past. Even former defense secretary McNamara has come to appreciate this. We believe America will not repeat the past, and we should look to the future. (S)

Regarding reconciliation, after 1975, we needed to heal the wounds of war. I need to mention this, because this is our first meeting. We were at war for 30 years. We emerged from it with our economy in tatters. (S)

We have learned lessons from others about socialism. Now, we are embarked on a course to create a better socialism. And we have learned to promote social and other aspects of life. I think you can understand the situation in the 1980's when we had to import millions of tons of rice. We could only produce 4 million tons of rice annually in the Delta. Thanks to renewal, we now produce 20 million tons per year. We have even been able to supply rice to Cuba and North Korea to help them meet their food needs. Now, we can help others. And we are firm in our practice of socialism. The Eastern Europeans were not as successful. As I observed to Secretary Albright, our socialism has not only survived, but also prospered. (S)

We have been asked why we are privatizing. We have many sectors, like the state sector as in France. We have a cooperative sector, with farmers given more independence to own land. We also have a sector for private investment. All these sectors are treated equally, as long as they respect the law. We do not ban the private sector. And the economy is not

See

Case Number: 2014-1061-F; 2023-0466-M

# MR MARKER

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001. memcon</del>	<del>Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (7 pages)</del>	<del>11/17/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1) KBH 11/6/2025</del>
<del>002. draft</del>	<del>[Draft of 001] (7 pages)</del>	<del>11/17/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1) KBH 11/6/2025</del>
<del>003. draft</del>	<del>[Incomplete draft of 001] (3 pages)</del>	<del>11/17/2000</del>	<del>P1/b(1) KBH 11/6/2025</del>

**COLLECTION:**

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 NSC Records Management  
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**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2023-0466-M(1.04)  
KBN 11/8/2024

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (U)

PARTICIPANTS:

The President  
 John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff  
 Samuel Berger, assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy  
 Douglas Peterson, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam  
 Stanley Roth, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
 Jack Pritchard, Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council (Notetaker)  
 Sean Son Lam, Interpreter

President Tran Duc Luong  
 Nguyen Dzy Nien, Foreign Minister  
 Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade  
 Nguyen Canh Dinh, Head of the President's Office  
 Chu Tuan Nha, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment  
 Nguyen Dinh Bin, Standing Deputy Foreign Minister  
 Nguyen Huy Hieu, Deputy Minister of National Defense  
 Le Van Bang, Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States  
 Nguyen Manh Hung, Director of the Americas Department  
 Nguyen Trung, Notetaker  
 Tran Thanh Huan, Notetaker  
 Luong Van Ly, Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: November 17, 2000, 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.  
Presidential Palace, Hanoi, Vietnam

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke  
Reason: 1.5 (d)  
Declassify On: 11/30/2010

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

President Luong: Welcome to you and your distinguished guests. I wish you success during your stay in Vietnam. I consider the trip a milestone in the normalization of relations during your eight years as President. I hope this is a new beginning of the relationship, moving toward full normalization of relations.  
(U)

The President: Thank you for making my delegation feel welcome. I was moved by the arrival ceremony. The Vietnamese people have given me a great welcome. My wife arrived several hours before me and also received a great welcome. I am delighted to make the trip. It completes a crucial phase that we have been working on for eight years. In nine weeks, we will have a new President. We have built a firm foundation he can work with in the future. I hope I can build on the progress we have made during my visit. It is important to keep moving forward as we have in the last eight years. We have some things we disagree on, such as free expression. One encouraging thing to raise is the response I received in the United States by the Vietnamese-American community to this trip. Most felt estranged from their native land, but strongly support efforts to build relations. Many said that they hoped to be permitted to contribute to this relationship. (U)

First, I want to thank you on behalf of all American people for the work that that has been done in the last eight years on the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs. I hope we can continue that effort. I hope we can do more to help you to account for those you have lost in the conflict. I brought with me 360,000 pages of documents that may be useful to help in your accounting. I also want to thank you for your cooperation on migration issues. Ninety-nine percent of the resettled ROVRs have been approved. This is important for our NGOs, and I thank you for that. (U)

I believe the trade agreement will boost Vietnam's economic growth. Your leadership took risks in signing the agreement, but benefits can be very large in an open economy. Both sides will need to ratify the agreement. USAID will provide \$2 million per year over the next three years to support implementation of the agreement. I hope that Vietnam will support maximum growth of the private sector to get the most benefit from the capacity of the nation. I want to do all that I can to get investors here, but I need your support. American companies here are excited; many have sent representatives on the trip. Their success will help us in our endeavors. (U)

Thank you for making our Ambassador so welcome. We have been friends for a long time. He is a symbol of my personal commitment to the relationship. His good reception made it possible for him to give a good impression of the relationship in the United States. (U)

President Luong: Thank you for speaking on issues of common interest. Thank you for accepting my invitation to visit Vietnam and to exchange views on our two countries and to review the progress of the last eight years. As the representative of the host country, I want to brief you on recent economic and social developments in Vietnam. Vietnam is a developing country with a low development level. It has been the victim of protracted conflict. Therefore, our most urgent task is to have peace, the most favored condition to build up a country and develop its economy. We have been carrying on our *Doi Moi* policy for the last 15 years. In the last decade, we have been happy to record significant achievements. Over 10 years the average growth rate has been 7.2 percent; in the highest period it reached 9-10 percent. Foreign trade has grown 20 percent over the last ten years. Thanks to the national economic potential, living conditions of the people has increased significantly. In addition to economics, social policy is very important to the government. (U)

Development of human resources and educational training are important targets in 2000. Training and education at the university level have expanded satisfactorily. There are about one million students throughout the country. Medical care and public health are very important. Family planning efforts have resulted in a reduction of the birth rate from 2 percent to 1.53 percent. The number of medical doctors and staff has increased considerably over the last few years. We have succeeded in eradicating social diseases such as malaria, leprosy, and TB. We have achieved almost 100 percent of child vaccinations against the six most serious diseases that threaten children. We are moving to the next step in our vaccination program to safeguard children's health. We have a successful program to fight poverty and hunger in Vietnam. In the past, 40 percent of the population was under the poverty line. In 2000, that has been reduced to 13 percent, an achievement recognized and appreciated by international organizations. In short, the *Doi Moi* policy in political and economic fields has been successful and has the approval of the people. In the years ahead, we will continue the policy to try to amplify the achievements we have achieved so far. It has made it possible to overcome several difficulties in the past ten years. In the 1980s, economic

difficulties caused inflation to be in the three-figure range at times. In the last ten years we have put an end to hyperinflation, stabilized the currency, and achieved economic results. (U)

Our *Doi Moi* policy mitigated the negative impact of the 1998-1999 financial crisis, and we have fully recovered from the financial crisis this year. We have been integrated into ASEAN and APEC, and we are trying to cooperate with other organizations for peace, stability, and economic prosperity for us and the region. We are determined to go further down the *Doi Moi* road and seek further renovation. It will enable us to achieve further and bigger results. We hope to make Vietnam an industrial country by 2020. In foreign relations, we want to be a friend to all. We attach great importance to neighboring countries and big powers. Relations with the United States are very important. We have tried to pursue normalization and full development of relations in order to create favorable conditions for the future. We are committed to talk about the future without going through the painful past. We appreciate the efforts of the last eight years to achieve normalization of relations. Since normalization and the establishment of embassies, I am happy to note both of our ambassadors are working hard to contribute to the furtherance of relations. (U)

With regard to the past, the issue of biggest concern is the legacy of the war. In line with our cultural traditions, Vietnam appreciates the preoccupation of America with the MIA issue. We have extended a large degree of assistance, which has resulted in significant and positive results. I am glad you have acknowledged and expressed appreciation for these results. In Vietnam, we also have our own preoccupation with the legacy of the war. According to our statistics, we have 300,000 MIAs unaccounted for. I want to thank you and the American government for your cooperation to address the issue. Thank you for bringing 360,000 pages of documents, which will help very much. (U)

The second problem is clearing of unexploded ordinance. They are still threatening the normal life of the people. I am also pleased to note that the United States and NGOs have started to help us to address the issue. There is a huge amount of work ahead of us. It is a dangerous program. We are looking forward to receiving more assistance from U.S. organizations and agencies. (U)

to receiving more assistance from U.S. organizations and agencies. (S)

The third problem is much more sensitive: victims of Agent Orange. We have not yet obtained many results. This is an issue of grave concern and emotional concern. I want to mention two problems: the existence of former U.S. bases contaminated during the war and the individual victims. Disease is being transferred to children and grandchildren; I have visited many families in the past few years. There are no words to express how distressing this is. We urgently need your help. You have been examining the cases on the U.S. side. The Administration has adopted measures to assist Americans, so you fully appreciate the distressing character of these victims. I am also glad to see that our scientists are starting to cooperate and will be meeting in Singapore in November. I hope we can have concrete action, which can be implemented right away without waiting for research results. (S)

It has been thoughtful of your Administration to assist victims of natural disasters in the last two years. You have also provided assistance to address the AIDS problem. We are also interested in education and training, which will help in our strategy of industrializing the country and modernization of the economy. I hope the new administration will continue to give consideration in addressing these humanitarian fields. (S)

I want to be very honest. The leaders are under pressure by the people to address the consequences of the war. For the sake of reconciliation, we need to cooperate to address all issues. I also think that if we can expand relations fast enough with concrete results that will be good (enough) to settle the legacy of the war. (S)

I earnestly hope the Bilateral Trade Agreement will be ratified by both sides. It will help businesses on both sides to be successful. I want to thank you for the technical assistance in the form of \$2 million per year for three years. I would like to reiterate what we have said during the BTA negotiations. I hope you can grant support for our entry into the WTO. It is our desire to integrate into the world economy. We are members of ASEAN and APEC and have applied for WTO membership. These are bold decisions with risks as well as benefits attached. The decision is made, and we are determined to overcome obstacles to bring about industrialization and modernization programs. (S)

You are interested in private sector development. Our policy is to encourage and facilitate all participants in our economy. We want the private sector to invest in the national economy. Contributions from the private sector are very important. The reality in Vietnam is that the private sector is small. Entrepreneurs have not received the proper training in the field of management. We need to encourage that development in the future. In our economic development strategy, we give importance to the development of new and sophisticated sectors such as biotechnology, new materials, and Information Technology (IT). We are now developing a bold program for IT, aiming to bring the capacity of the Vietnamese people and science together. There are only a few thousand technicians and experts in the field of IT. We want to develop this field to meet our needs. We have 200 colleges and universities with one million students. Among these, we hope to train a significant contingent of IT technicians. We also have 300 companies involved in IT. We are looking forward to cooperating with your technology sector and getting positive results in the future.

(e)

We have 80 million people that represent an important market. Our industrial program needs machinery to carry it out. Vietnam is endowed with natural resources; the most important of which is its people. We have a young population that is studious and hard working. It can be developed satisfactorily. The United States is among the leading economic powers with a huge capacity in the field of education and training. In the spirit of goodwill and friendship, transparency and noninterference, the prospect for cooperation is very bright. It is the most positive way to settle the legacy of the war. (e)

With regard to the Vietnamese community in the United States, I am happy with their successful integration into American society. I am happy to note they are doing quite well in the United States, particularly in advanced scientific work. Vietnamese children are successful in school. I am also careful to mention the value of culture and traditions in Vietnam. Many keep in touch with their families in Vietnam. They can be very helpful in the process of developing relations of our two countries. Unfortunately, there is a small portion that is hostile to Vietnam. We practice the policy of reconciliation and natural entente. I would ask that the United States assist in explaining that policy to the Vietnamese-American community.

(e)

The President: That was a good review of the situation and issues of concern. Time is constrained so let me respond briefly and then get back to you in more detail later. First, your summary of health and education was impressive. I hope we can be supportive in any way we can with regard to demining. I want to do more and will follow up. With regard to your application to join WTO and your desire to have PNTR with us, I find this encouraging and would like to set up a system to be supportive of the implementation of the agreement. The capacity of the nation of Vietnam to achieve rapid growth for an extended period is great and I would like to support you. As far as Agent Orange goes, I hope you will forgive me, but I need to be straightforward. I am going beyond my talking points by saying that I believe we should do more, not only for the people of Vietnam but the people of the United States that were hurt. Our ability to do more is directly related to what we have done for our veterans. I ask your support in the meeting in Singapore and in joint research on dioxins. This is not a way of avoiding the issue, but it lays the foundation to do more. My successor will not be able to do more if we do not meet our obligations to our own veterans. If this is translated as a backdoor approach, it will lose in Congress. I sympathize with the suffering because of Agent Orange. I ask you to be part of the process. This is meant to lay the foundation for the future. One other point. I have also instructed our officials to give you a computer database of information that indicates where Agent Orange was handled or spread. This will help to locate intense storage sites. The ability of my successor to be more helpful on Agent Orange depends on the ability to do right by our own people. We need to be able to act on facts. (C)

President Luong: Thank you for your ideas. Time is running out. You will meet the Prime Minister and be received in audience by the General Secretary. We should move to witness the signing of the Science and Technology Agreement. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED  
PER E.O. 13526  
2023-0466-M (1.05)  
KBM 11/8/2024

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam (u)

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
 John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff  
 Samuel Berger, assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
 Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy  
 Douglas Peterson, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam  
 Stanley Roth, Assistant Secretary of State  
 Jack Pritchard, Senior Director for Asian Affairs, National Security Council  
 (Notetaker)  
 Sean Son Lam, Interpreter

President Tran Duc Luong  
 Nguyen Dzy Nien, Foreign Minister  
 Vu Khoan, Minister of Trade  
 Nguyen Canh Dinh, Head of the President's Office  
 Chu Tuan Nha, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment  
 Nguyen Dinh Bin, Standing Deputy Foreign Minister  
 Nguyen Huy Hieu, Deputy Minister of National Defense  
 Le Van Bang, Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States  
 Nguyen Manh Hung, Director of the Americas Department  
 Nguyen Trung, Notetaker  
 Tran Thanh Huan, Notetaker  
 Luong Van Ly, Interpreter

*FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS*

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: November 17, 2000, 11:30 A.M. - 12:50 P.M.  
Presidential Palace, Hanoi, Vietnam

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Robert A. Bradtke

Reason: 1.5 (d)

Declassify On: 11/30/2010

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

President Luong: Welcome to you and your distinguished guests. I wish you success during your stay in Vietnam. I consider the trip a milestone in the normalization of relations during your <sup>eight</sup> 8 years as President. I hope this is a new beginning of the relationship, moving toward full normalization of relations.  
(U)

The President: Thank you for making my delegation feel welcome. I was moved by the arrival ceremony. The Vietnamese people have given me a great welcome. My wife arrived several hours before me and also received a great welcome. I am delighted to make the trip. It completes a crucial phase that we have been working on for <sup>eight</sup> 8 years. In <sup>nine</sup> 9 weeks, we will have a new President. We have built a firm foundation he can work with in the future. I hope I can build on the progress we have made during my visit. It is important to keep moving forward as we have in the last <sup>eight</sup> 8 years. We have some things we disagree on, such as free expression. One encouraging thing to raise is the response I received in the United States by the Vietnamese-American community to this trip. Most felt estranged from their native land, but strongly support efforts to build relations. Many said that they hoped to be permitted to contribute to this relationship. (C)

First, I want to thank you on behalf of all American people for the work that that has been done in the last <sup>eight</sup> 8 years on the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs. I hope we can continue that effort. I hope we can do more to help you to account for those you have lost in the conflict. I brought with me 360,000 pages of documents that may be useful to help in your accounting. I also want to thank you for your cooperation on migration issues. <sup>Ninety nine</sup> 99 percent of the resettled ROVRs have been approved. This is important for our NGOs and I thank you for that. (C)

I believe the trade agreement will boost Vietnam's economic growth. Your leadership took risks in signing the agreement, but benefits can be very large in an open economy. Both sides will need to ratify the agreement. USAID will provide <sup>\$2</sup> \$2 <sup>next year</sup> million per year over the next three years to support implementation of the agreement. I hope that Vietnam will support maximum growth of the private sector to get the most benefit from the capacity of the nation. I want to do all that I can to get investors here, but I need your support. American

companies here are excited; many have sent representatives on the trip. Their success will help us in our endeavors. (e)

Thank you for making our Ambassador so welcome. We have been friends for a long time. He is a symbol of my personal commitment to the relationship. His good reception made it possible for him to give a good impression of the relationship in the United States. (U)

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Development of human resources and educational training are important targets in 2000. Training and education at the university level has expanded satisfactorily. There are about 1 <sup>one</sup> million students throughout the country. Medical care and public health are very important. Family planning efforts have resulted in a reduction of the birth rate from 2 percent to 1.53 percent. The number of medical doctors and staff has increased considerably over the last few years. We have succeeded in eradicating social diseases such as malaria, leprosy and TB. We have achieved almost 100 percent of child vaccinations against the six most serious diseases that threaten children. We are moving to the next step in our vaccination program to safeguard children's health. We have a successful program to fight poverty and hunger in Vietnam. In the past, 40 percent of the population was under the poverty line. In 2000, that has been reduced to 13 percent, an achievement recognized and appreciated by international organizations. In short, the *Doi Moi* policy in political and economic fields has been successful and has the approval of the people. In the years ahead, we will continue

the policy to try to amplify the achievements we have achieved so far. It has made it possible to overcome several difficulties in the past 10<sup>7</sup> years. In the 1980<sup>7</sup>s, economic difficulties caused inflation to be in the <sup>7-12%</sup> 3-figure range at times. In the last 10<sup>7</sup> years we have put an end to hyperinflation, stabilized the currency and achieved economic results. (U)

Our *Doi Moi* policy mitigated the negative impact of the 1998-1999 financial crisis, and we have fully recovered from the financial crisis this year. We have been integrated into ASEAN and APEC, and we are trying to cooperate with other organizations for peace, stability and economic prosperity for us and the region. We are determined to go further down the *Doi Moi* road and seek further renovation. It will enable us to achieve further and bigger results. We hope to make Vietnam an industrial country by 2020. In foreign relations, we want to be a friend to all. We attach great importance to neighboring countries and big powers. Relations with the United States is very important. We have tried to pursue normalization and full development of relations in order to create favorable conditions for the future. We are committed to talk about the future without going through the painful past. We appreciate the efforts of the last <sup>eight</sup> years to achieve normalization of relations. Since normalization and the establishment of embassies, I am happy to note both of our ambassadors are working hard to contribute to the furtherance of relations. (U)

With regard to the past, the issue of biggest concern is the legacy of the war. In line with our cultural traditions, Vietnam appreciates the preoccupation of America with the MIA issue. We have extended a large degree of assistance, which has resulted in significant and positive results. I am glad you have acknowledged and expressed appreciation for these results. In Vietnam, we also have our own preoccupation with the legacy of the war. According to our statistics, we have 300,000 MIA's unaccounted for. I want to thank you and the American government for your cooperation to address the issue. Thank you for bringing 360,000 pages of documents, which will help very much. (U)

The second problem is clearing of unexploded ordinance. They are still threatening the normal life of the people. I am also pleased to note that the United States and NGOs have started to help us to address the issue. There is a huge amount of work ahead of us. It is a dangerous program. We are looking forward

to receiving more assistance from U.S. organizations and agencies. (C)

The third problem is much more sensitive: victims of Agent Orange. We have not yet obtained many results. This is an issue of grave concern and emotional concern. I want to mention two problems: the existence of former U.S. bases contaminated during the war and the individual victims. Disease is being transferred to children and grandchildren. I have visited many families in the past few years. There are no words to express how distressing this is. We urgently need your help. You have been examining the causes on the U.S. side. The Administration has adopted measures to assist Americans, so you fully appreciate the distressing character of these victims. I am also glad to see that our scientists are starting to cooperate and will be meeting in Singapore in November. I hope we can have concrete action, which can be implemented right away without waiting for research results. (C)

It has been thoughtful of your administration to assist victims of natural disasters in the last two years. You have also provided assistance to address the AIDS problem. We are also interested in education and training, which will help in our strategy of industrializing the country and modernization of the economy. I hope the new administration will continue to give consideration in addressing these humanitarian fields. (C)

I want to be very honest. The leaders are under pressure by the people to address the consequences of the war. For the sake of reconciliation, we need to cooperate to address all issues. I also think that if we can expand relations fast enough with concrete results that will be good (enough) to settle the legacy of the war. (C)

I earnestly hope the Bilateral Trade Agreement will be ratified by both sides. It will help businesses on both sides to be successful. I want to thank you for the technical assistance in the form of \$2 million per year for three years. I would like to reiterate what we have said during the BTA negotiations. I hope you can grant support for our entry into the WTO. It is our desire to integrate into the world economy. We are members of ASEAN and APEC and have applied for WTO membership. These are bold decisions with risks as well as benefits attached. The decision is made and we are determined to overcome obstacles to bring about industrialization and modernization programs. (C)

You are interested in private sector development. Our policy is to encourage and facilitate all participants in our economy. We want the private sector to invest in the national economy. Contributions from the private sector are very important. The reality in Vietnam is that the private sector is small. Entrepreneurs have not received the proper training in the field of management. We need to encourage that development in the future. In our economic development strategy, we give importance to the development of new and sophisticated sectors such as biotechnology, new materials, and Information Technology.<sup>(17)</sup> We are now developing a bold program for IT, aiming to bring the capacity of the Vietnamese people and science together. There are only a few thousand technicians and experts in the field of IT. We want to develop this field to meet our needs. We have 200 colleges and universities with 1 million students. Among these, we hope to train a significant contingent of IT technicians. We also have 300 companies involved in IT. We are looking forward to cooperating with your technology sector and getting positive results in the future.

(S)

We have 80 million people that represent an important market. Our industrial program needs machinery to carry it out. Vietnam is endowed with natural resources; the most important of which is its people.<sup>18</sup> We have a young population that is studious and hard working. It can be developed satisfactorily. The United States is among the leading economic powers with a huge capacity in the field of education and training. In the spirit of goodwill and friendship, transparency and noninterference, the prospect for cooperation is very bright. It is the most positive way to settle the legacy of the war. (S)

With regard to the Vietnamese community in the United States, I am happy with their successful integration into American society. I am happy to note they are doing quite well in the United States, particularly in advanced scientific work. Vietnamese children are successful in school. I am also careful to mention the value of culture and traditions in Vietnam. Many keep in touch with their families in Vietnam. They can be very helpful in the process of developing relations of our <sup>2-7W</sup> countries. Unfortunately, there is a small portion that is hostile to Vietnam. We practice the policy of reconciliation and natural entente. I would ask that the United States assist in explaining that policy to the Vietnamese-American community.

(S)

The President: That was a good review of the situation and issues of concern. Time is constrained so let me respond briefly and then get back to you in more detail later. First, your summary of health and education was impressive. I hope we can be supportive in any way we can with regard to demining. I want to do more and will follow up. With regard to your application to join WTO and your desire to have PNTR with us, I find this encouraging and would like to set up a system to be supportive of the implementation of the agreement. The capacity of the nation of Vietnam to achieve rapid growth for an extended period is great and I would like to support you. As far as Agent Orange goes, I hope you will forgive me, but I need to be straightforward. I am going beyond my talking points by saying that I believe we should do more, not only for the people of Vietnam but the people of the United States that were hurt. Our ability to do more is directly related to what we have done for our veterans. I ask your support in the meeting in Singapore and in joint research on dioxins. This is not a way of avoiding the issue, but it lays the foundation to do more. My successor will not be able to do more if we do not meet our obligations to our own veterans. If this is translated as a backdoor approach, it will lose in Congress. I sympathize with the suffering because of Agent Orange. I ask you to be part of the process. This is meant to lay the foundation for the future. One other point. I have also instructed our officials to give you a computer database of information that indicates where Agent Orange was handled or spread. This will help to locate intense storage sites. The ability of my successor to be more helpful on Agent Orange depends on the ability to do right by our own people. We need to be able to act on facts. (U)

President Luong: Thank you for your ideas. Time is running out. You will meet the Prime Minister and be received in audience by the General Secretary. We should move to witness the signing of the Science and Technology Agreement. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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President Luong: Welcome to you and your distinguished guests. I wish you success during your stay in Vietnam. I consider the trip a milestone in the normalization of relations during your eight years as President. I hope this is a new beginning of the relationship, moving toward full normalization of relations.

(U)

The President: Thank you for making my delegation feel welcome. I was moved by the arrival ceremony. The Vietnamese people have given me a great welcome. My wife arrived several hours before me and also received a great welcome. I am delighted to make the trip. It completes a crucial phase that we have been working on for eight years. In nine weeks, we will have a new President. We have built a firm foundation he can work with in the future. I hope I can build on the progress we have made during my visit. It is important to keep moving forward as we have in the last eight years. We have some things we disagree on, such as free expression. One encouraging thing to raise is the response I received in the United States by the Vietnamese-American community to this trip. Most felt estranged from their native land, but strongly support efforts to build relations. Many said that they hoped to be permitted to contribute to this relationship. (S)

First, I want to thank you on behalf of all American people for the work that that has been done in the last eight years on the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs. I hope we can continue that effort. I hope we can do more to help you to account for those you have lost in the conflict. I brought with me 360,000 pages of documents that may be useful to help in your accounting. I also want to thank you for your cooperation on migration issues. Ninety-nine percent of the resettled ROVRs have been approved. This is important for our NGOs, and I thank you for that. (S)

I believe the trade agreement will boost Vietnam's economic growth. Your leadership took risks in signing the agreement, but benefits can be very large in an open economy. Both sides will need to ratify the agreement. USAID will provide \$2 million per year over the next three years to support implementation of the agreement. I hope that Vietnam will support maximum growth of the private sector to get the most benefit from the capacity of the nation. I want to do all that I can to get investors here, but I need your support. American

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companies here are excited; many have sent representatives on the trip. Their success will help us in our endeavors. (C)

Thank you for making our Ambassador so welcome. We have been friends for a long time. He is a symbol of my personal commitment to the relationship. His good reception made it possible for him to give a good impression of the relationship in the United States. (U)

President Luong: Thank you for speaking on issues of common interest. Thank you for accepting my invitation to visit Vietnam and to exchange views on our two countries and to review the progress of the last eight years. As the representative of the host country, I want to brief you on recent economic and social developments in Vietnam. Vietnam is a developing country with a low development level. It has been the victim of protracted conflict. Therefore, our most urgent task is to have peace, the most favored condition to build up a country and develop its economy. We have been carrying on our *Doi Moi* policy for the last 15 years. In the last decade, we have been happy to record significant achievements. Over 10 years the average growth rate has been 7.2 percent; in the highest period it reached 9-10 percent. Foreign trade has grown 20 percent over the last ten years. Thanks to the national economic potential, living conditions of the people has increased significantly. In addition to economics, social policy is very important to the government. (U)

Development of human <sup>have</sup> resources and educational training are important targets in 2000. Training and education at the university level has expanded satisfactorily. There are about one million students throughout the country. Medical care and public health are very important. Family planning efforts have resulted in a reduction of the birth rate from 2 percent to 1.53 percent. The number of medical doctors and staff has increased considerably over the last few years. We have succeeded in eradicating social diseases such as malaria, leprosy, and TB. We have achieved almost 100 percent of child vaccinations against the six most serious diseases that threaten children. We are moving to the next step in our vaccination program to safeguard children's health. We have a successful program to fight poverty and hunger in Vietnam. In the past, 40 percent of the population was under the poverty line. In 2000, that has been reduced to 13 percent, an achievement recognized and appreciated by international organizations. In short, the *Doi Moi* policy in political and economic fields has been successful and has the approval of the people. In the years ahead, we will

continue the policy to try to amplify the achievements we have achieved so far. It has made it possible to overcome several difficulties in the past ten years. In the 1980s, economic difficulties caused inflation to be in the three-figure range at times. In the last ten years we have put an end to hyperinflation, stabilized the currency, and achieved economic results. (U)

Our *Doi Moi* policy mitigated the negative impact of the 1998-1999 financial crisis, and we have fully recovered from the financial crisis this year. We have been integrated into ASEAN and APEC, and we are trying to cooperate with other organizations for peace, stability, and economic prosperity for us and the region. We are determined to go further down the *Doi Moi* road and seek further renovation. It will enable us to achieve further and bigger results. We hope to make Vietnam an industrial country by 2020. In foreign relations, we want to be a friend to all. We attach great importance to neighboring countries and big powers. Relations with the United States *is all* very important. We have tried to pursue normalization and full development of relations in order to create favorable conditions for the future. We are committed to talk about the future without going through the painful past. We appreciate the efforts of the last eight years to achieve normalization of relations. Since normalization and the establishment of embassies, I am happy to note both of our ambassadors are working hard to contribute to the furtherance of relations. (U)

With regard to the past, the issue of biggest concern is the legacy of the war. In line with our cultural traditions, Vietnam appreciates the preoccupation of America with the MIA issue. We have extended a large degree of assistance, which has resulted in significant and positive results. I am glad you have acknowledged and expressed appreciation for these results. In Vietnam, we also have our own preoccupation with the legacy of the war. According to our statistics, we have 300,000 MIAs unaccounted for. I want to thank you and the American government for your cooperation to address the issue. Thank you for bringing 360,000 pages of documents, which will help very much. (U)

The second problem is clearing of unexploded ordinance. They are still threatening the normal life of the people. I am also pleased to note that the United States and NGOs have started to help us to address the issue. There is a huge amount of work ahead of us. It is a dangerous program. We are looking forward