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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OPR/LS:ESGlenn

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**Memorandum of Conversation**

DATE: August 25, 1965  
8:00 p.m.  
USS Sequoia

SUBJECT: Viet Nam - Part II of III

PARTICIPANTS: The U.S. Poland  
The President Ambassador Drozniak  
Edmund S. Glenn

COPIES TO:

White House  
EUR - Mr. Leddy  
FE - Mr. Bundy

The President stated that one of the things which is apparently not understood in Poland (and which a U.S. Ambassador particularly attuned to Polish psychology would have to explain) is the U.S. position in Viet Nam. The President does not want the U.S. involvement in that country (and in particular its military side) to become permanent or too deep. He wishes to withdraw U.S. forces as soon as at all possible. However a possibility of withdrawal with honor and justice must be given to the U.S. The U.S. has attempted to make its position known in Hanoi, Peking and Moscow, but to no avail. The U.S. is ready to come to the conference table; the other side is not.

Ambassador Drozniak said that the situation in Viet Nam has become a vicious circle. The U.S. is waiting for a response to its overtures, the other side feels that it cannot respond while its country is being bombed. Only the President of the U.S. can break this vicious circle; only he is big enough and powerful enough to do so.

The President said that American bombing had been interrupted, in order to make it easier for Hanoi to adopt a more conciliatory attitude. Nothing has come out of it. Attacks against Americans in Viet Nam were not interrupted. As for American bombing, the President sees to it personally that it is limited to military installations.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Dept. Guidelines

By jc, NARA, Date 2-8-01

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The Polish Ambassador stated that one brief interruption in bombings, accompanied by a threat of their resumption, smacks too much of an ultimatum, and cannot produce the desired effect. Errors in the course of military operations are unavoidable, and not all of the American bombs fall on military objectives. For example a civilian hospital donated by Poland to North Viet Nam was destroyed.

The President expressed his regret in regard to this incident of which he was unaware until informed by the Ambassador. The President asked whether the hospital did not adjoin a military installation, and repeated that it is not the American policy to bomb non-military objectives.

The Ambassador stated that he did not know whether or not the hospital was close to a military installation. He fully trusts and believes the President, and is convinced that the President's orders are to bomb military objectives. However, war is an ugly thing, and errors are unavoidable.

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