

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 679
INFO RUDLSK/USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD
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RUFLC/CINCEUR FOR POLAD
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NATUS

SUBJECT: PRESS ON RESUMPTION OF BOMBING IN VIETNAM

BERLIN'S PRESS VIEWED RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN RAIDS ON NORTH VIETNAM AS DISAPPOINTING BUT NECESSARY CONSEQUENCE OF COMMUNISTS' REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE AND WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S CALL OF SPECIAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

MOST PAPERS UNDERScoreD PRESIDENT'S LONG AND PATIENT EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT BY PEACEFUL MEANS, WHICH SHOULD NOW ALLOW US TO HOPE FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS VIETNAM POLICY. AT SAME TIME PRESS TENDED TO ACCEPT

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-2- 679, FEBRUARY 2, FROM BERLIN

PAGE TWO RUFHJA 010 UNCLAS
MILITARY NECESSITY FOR RESUMING RAIDS AND UNDERScored
EXTRAORDINARY DIFFICULTY OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION, WHICH
COULD LEAD TO US-USSR CONFRONTATION OVER SOUTHEAST ASIA.
MOST PAPERS SUGGESTED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THAT FIRM US
POSITION IS NECESSARY TO LEAD USSR TO RECOGNIZE GROWING RISKS
AND TO OBLIGE NORTH VIETNAM TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE.

EAST GERMAN PRESS REPORTED IN FRONT-PAGE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
STORY ON FEB. 1 THAT "AFTER A FIVE-WEEK PAUSE PRESIDENT JOHNSON
AGAIN GAVE ORDERS FOR THE MURDER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FOR
THE BOMBARDMENT OF SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS." PAPER ALSO
CARRIED TEXT OF SOVIET STATEMENT PROTESTING RESUMPTION OF US
RAIDS. "ND" LEAD EDITORIAL ON FEB. 2 ASSERTED THAT RESUMPTION
OF BOMBING HAD UNMAKED WASHINGTON'S "SO-CALLED
PEACE OFFENSIVE AS LIES AND DECEIT." STRESSED INCREASED NEED
FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES "TO INTENSIFY AND UNIFY" THEIR EFFORTS
IN SUPPORT OF "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE."

CALHOUN

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