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JOHNSON <sup>U</sup>CONDEMNS VIET CONG ATTACK ON SAIGON PALACE(380)  
WASHINGTON-- PRESIDENT JOHNSON CONDEMNS THE VIET CONG MORTAR ATTACK  
ON SAIGON'S PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL.

"THAT ACTION OUGHT TO REVOLT THE CIVILIZED WORLD," MR. JOHNSON  
DECLARED AT AN IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 10.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS WERE  
IN INDEPENDENCE PALACE IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON WHEN MORTAR SHELLS  
FIRED BY VIET CONG TERRORISTS LANDED ON THE PALACE GROUNDS  
THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 31. THERE WERE NO INJURIES TO OFFICIALS  
ATTENDING THE RECEPTION.

MR. JOHNSON REAFFIRMED AMERICA'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE  
ITS COURSE IN VIETNAM. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING  
TO NEGOTIATE NOW FOR PEACE, BUT COMMUNIST NORTH VIETNAM HAS GIVEN  
NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT IT WILL HALT ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST THE  
SOUTH.

"WE CONTINUE TO STAND WILLING TO NEGOTIATE NOW--TO STOP  
THE BOMBING," THE PRESIDENT SAID.

"THE PROBLEM IS WITH THE ENEMY, WHO INSISTS ON CONTINUING  
THE COURSE THAT PLACES US IN VIETNAM AND THAT WILL KEEP US  
THERE UNTIL THEY DECIDE THAT MIGHT DOES NOT RPT NOT MAKE  
RIGHT," HE SAID.

MR. JOHNSON REITERATED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "READY TO  
GO THE LAST MILE"--TO STOP THE BOMBING AND ENTER INTO PROMPT  
PEACE TALKS WHENEVER THERE IDW SDINDICATION THE ENEMY WILL NOT  
RPT NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PAUSE. BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT  
NO ENEMY RESPONSE TO THIS OFTEN-REPEATED PROPOSAL, THE PRESIDENT  
STRESSED.

MR. JOHNSON SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE COURSE OF THE WAR, AND FELT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. "I HAVE NOT RPT NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION," HE SAID.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, HEADED BY PRESIDENT THIEU AND VICE PRESIDENT KY, WILL CONTINUE THE PROGRESS OF THE LAST 13 MONTHS.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT PEACE DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, MR. JOHNSON SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN "NO RPT NO GREAT UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS FLOWING FROM VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS AND PROGRAMS THAT COME FROM PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE

WHO ARE BUSILY ENGAGED IN FINDING WHAT'S WRONG."

THESE PEOPLE DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE INFORMATION THAT COMES TO HIM FROM 110 COUNTRIES WHERE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ARE STATIONED AND FROM THE MILITARY MEN IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND OTHER CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ADVISORS, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE STATED. ITEM.

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