1. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT ANY GENERAL OFFICER IN VIETNAM WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT. ANY GENERAL WHO IS SERVING HERE OR WHO HAS MADE AN HONEST APPRAISAL AS A RESULT OF A PROFESSIONAL VISIT COULD NOT COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A NEED FOR REINFORCEMENTS IS A MEASURE OF OUR FAILURE WITH THE VIETNAMESE. PROGRESS IS NOT FAILURE AND BY EVERY MEASURE THERE IS INCREASING PROGRESS, AS YOU KNOW. ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT APPLE GOT INFORMATION HE SHOULD NOT HAVE HAD AND USED IT, I AM CONCERNED BECAUSE THE REPORT HAS NOT REACHED THAT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IT IS GIVING US THE INFORMATION WE SEEK IN MEANINGFUL TERMS AND PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

2. YOU CALLED MY ATTENTION TO STATE MESSAGE REF. D. THROUGH A MIXUP, STILL UNEXPLAINED, WE DID NOT RECEIVE OUR COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE, WHICH ARRIVED HERE MIDDAY ON 8 AUGUST. AFTER RECEIVING YOUR 10 AUGUST MESSAGE (REF B) WE BORROWED A COPY OF THE STATE INCOMING AND LEARNED THAT AN ANSWER HAD GONE TO STATE ON 10 AUGUST. I TRUST YOU HAVE SEEN THE REPLY WHICH NOTES THAT THE HES REPORT HAS BEEN USED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NEWSMEN. I AM NOT
HAPPY THAT A REPORT SUCH AS THIS, PARTICULARLY ONE THAT IS IN AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, IS DISCUSSED WITH NEWSMEN, EVEN ON A BACKGROUND BASIS. I AM TAKING STEPS TO CONTROL SUCH USE.

3. APPLE DOES NOT RESEARCH HIS MILITARY MATERIAL WITH THE MACV MILITARY STAFF. HE WORKS MOSTLY WITH PERSONAL CONTACTS. HE IS PESSIMISTIC AND SUSPICIOUS. FOR INSTANCE, HE HAS ARGUED AT LENGTH WITH SECRETARY GOULDING AND BARRY ZORTHIAN ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, AND STILL IS CONVINCED THAT WE ARE NOT HONEST ABOUT CASUALTIES AND ARE MANIPULATING THE FIGURES.

4. I HAVE WATCHED APPLE BECOME MORE CRITICAL AND MORE ARGUMENTATIVE DURING RECENT MONTHS. BARRING SOME DRAMATIC AND IRREFUTABLE TURN FOR THE BETTER HERE WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF DOUBTER AND CRITIC. HE IS PROBABLY BUCKING FOR A PULITZER PRIZE.

BEST REGARDS.