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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT : Low-Altitude Reconnaissance of North Vietnam

1. This memorandum is for your information.
2. Unarmed low-altitude reconnaissance over North Vietnam is not currently authorized to be conducted either in the area north of 21° North or within 40 nautical miles of Hanoi and Haiphong.
3. Armed low-altitude reconnaissance for destruction of DRV SAM sites tentatively identified by ELINT or other means is not currently authorized in the following areas of North Vietnam:
 - a. Outside the ROLLING THUNDER area of operations, i.e., north and east of a line which runs west from the coast at 20° 30' North to about 105° 15' East then north to 22° North, 105° East and due west from that point to the Laos border (see attached map).

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c. The five established SAM sites around Hanoi and the Hanoi area bounded by those sites.

USAF review completed.

d. Within 10 nautical miles of Haiphong.

e. Phuc Yen Airfield

4. Strikes to destroy DRV SAM sites located outside the ROLLING THUNDER area and outside the other excluded areas (3. b., c., d and e., above) are authorized, if confirmed by field readout of photography.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED - Secondary Referral to USAF

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5. Following is a summary of the capabilities of the EA-5C:

a. Six EA-5C vigilantes are currently deployed in the Southeast Asian area. They have been used for reconnaissance over North Vietnam. The EA-5C has a speed of 1,150 knots, a radius of 1,300 nm and a combat ceiling of 47,000 feet. It has a multi-sensor capability and can operate from the largest CVA's or from land bases.

b. The cameras currently in use in the Vigilante are the KA-50 1.75" vertical, the KA-51 6" forward and/or side oblique, and the KA-53 12" panoramic, all of which can be used on day or night missions, from low or medium altitudes. The aircraft also contains an AN/APD-7 Side Looking Airborne Radar (SLAR) and passive electronic countermeasures equipment (PECM).

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6. Other low- and medium-level photo-reconnaissance aircraft in the theater include



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RAY S. CLINE
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

Attachment: Map

DDI/CGS/[redacted]/rr (8/19/65) [redacted]

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