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*****CONFIDENTIAL*****

DATE 05/31/73

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 001

MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

PRG ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN AREA OF XA MAT ARE UNFOUNDED. ALL U.S. STRIKES IN AREA OF XA MAT WERE AGAINST INFILTRATING TRAFFIC(WHICH WERE VIOLATING AGREEMENTS). ALL ORDANCE DROPPED IN CAMBODIA, NO ORDANCE DROPPED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. SCOWCROFT, HOWE, LL

MESSAGE:

JCS completed review for PACOM

FLASH
DE RUEKJCS #8116 151133Z
Z 311332Z MAY 73
FM JCS

JCS review completed.

INFO CSA WASH DC
CND WASH DC
WHITE HOUSE WASH DC
SECSTATE WASH DC
Z 311245Z MAY 73
FM COMUSSAG NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB THAI

TO CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HI

INFO CJCS WASH DC
CSAF WASH DC
CINCPACAF HICKAM FB HI
BT

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As per instructions on document *CDS*
By *S/AC* Date *5/7/94*

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SUBJ: PRG CHARGES U.S. WITH NEW CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

1. REF ALLEGED U.S. BOMBING OF SVN AS CITED IN AMEMBASSY SAIGON 3100340Z MAY 73.
2. DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF THE PRG CHARGES HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT. ALL STRIKES WITHIN 20 KM OF XA MAT ON 29 MAY WERE REVIEWED. STRIKES CONDUCTED IN THE AREA WERE AGAINST INFILTRATING TRAFFIC. THIS TRAFFIC WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE VIETNAM CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS.
3. NO U.S. AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN TARGETED IN SVN SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. AIR OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN KHMER ON 29 MAY NEAR THE BORDER. THERE WERE NO KNOWN OR SUSPECTED RELEASES ON THE SVN SIDE. THE AREA WHERE HIGHWAY 78 CROSSES THE BORDER NEAR XA MAT IS CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE BY DEFINITE TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES SUCH AS: (1) A LARGE PRONOUNCED JINK IN HIGHWAY 78 AT THE BORDER; (2) A VISIBLE STREAM WHICH PARALLELS THE BORDER

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

AND (3) SIDE ROADS WHICH ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED ON A MAP. THE COMMANDER OF THE WING WHICH CONDUCTED ALL OF THE STRIKES IN THE AREA ON 29 MAY PERSONALLY HAS INTERVIEWED EACH CREWMEMBER INVOLVED. THE TARGETS WERE ALL IDENTIFIED POSITIVELY AS BEING IN KHMER AND NOT IN VIETNAM.

4. ON 29 MAY THREE FLIGHTS OF F-4'S STRUCK FOUR TRUCKS AND TRACKED VEHICLE TARGETS IN KHMER ABOUT 3 KM FROM XA MAT. DISTANCE FROM THE SVN BORDER OF THESE STRIKES RANGED FROM 1 TO 3 KM.

5. THE PRG HAVE CLAIMED THAT ON 29 MAY, FROM 1225H TO 1255H THREE F-4'S BOMBED AND OPENED FIRE ON THE AREA OF XA MAT. THE EARLIEST STRIKE IN THE AREA WAS AT 1345H, 50 MIN AFTER THE ALLEGED STRIKES AND 3 KM NW OF XA MAT.

6. THE PRG HAVE CLAIMED THAT ON 29 MAY, FROM 1330H TO 1415H, FOUR F-4'S BOMBED (HIGH CALIBER) AND DROPPED STEEL PELLET BOMBS IN BOMBING AND ROCKETING THE AREA. RECORDS INDICATE THAT A SINGLE F-4 EXPENDED THREE 500 POUND GENERAL PURPOSE BOMBS AGAINST ARMOR (XT 050 887) AT 1356H; ANOTHER SINGLE F-4 EXPENDED THREE 500 POUND BOMBS AGAINST A TRUCK (XT 068 902) AT 1345H; AND ALSO EXPENDED ON ANTI PERSONNEL/MATERIEL BOMB AGAINST ANOTHER TRUCK (XT 048 900) AT 1350H. ALL OF THESE EXPENDITURES OCCURRED AT LEAST THREE KM FROM XA MAT AND NONE WAS INSIDE SVN TERRITORY. NO OTHER STRIKES OCCURRED IN THE AREA WITHIN THIS TIME FRAME.

7. THE PRG HAVE CLAIMED THAT ON 29 MAY, FROM 1440H TO 1640H, FOUR F-4'S AGAIN DROPPED EXPLOSIVES AND STEEL PELLET BOMBS ON THE AREA. A SINGLE F-4 EXPENDED TWO ANTI PERSONNEL / MATERIEL BOMBS AGAINST ARMOR (XT 048 900) AT 1710H, 30 MIN LATER THAN THE ALLEGATION AND 3 KM W OF XA MAT, WELL WITHIN KHMER. THE ONLY OTHER ORDNANCE EXPENDED WAS ALONG RTE SEVEN IN KHMER. A FLIGHT OF TWO F-4'S DROPPED FOUR 2000 POUND GUIDED BOMBS IN ORDER TO INTERDICT THE ROAD (AT XU 150 030 AND XU 140 027), ABOUT 13 KM FROM XA MAT AND ONE TO TWO KM INSIDE KHMER TERRITORY. THESE WEAPONS WERE RELEASED AT 1715H AND 1718H, PLACING THEM 35 AND 38 MINUTES LATER THAN THE ALLEGED VIOLATION.

8. THE FINAL PRG CLAIM STATES THAT ONE C-130 HOVERED OVER THE AREA AND BOMBED THE AREA FROM 1930H TO 2030H. RECORDS INDICATE THAT A SINGLE AC-130H GUNSHIP DID IN FACT EXPEND 105MM AND 40MM ORDNANCE AGAINST TRUCKS IN KHMER. THE FIRST EXPENDITURE OCCURRED AT 2030H (XT 061 909); THE SECOND AT 2050H (XT 059 930). THESE LOCATIONS ARE 9 KM AND 4 KM, RESPECTIVELY, FROM XA MAT

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

AND BOTH ARE WELL WITHIN KHMER TERRITORY. THE SECOND OF THESE GUNSHIP EXPENDITURES (AND THE NEARER TO XA MAT) OCCURRED TWENTY MINUTES AFTER THE ALLEGED TIME FRAME.

9. SUMMARY. OUR INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT ALL AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE PRG ALLEGED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS CONDUCTED STRIKES IN KHMER AND THAT NO ORDNANCE WAS EXPENDED IN SVN. ALL CREWMEMBERS WERE HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT ALL STRIKES WERE IN KHMER. FURTHER, ALL CREWS ARE AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN TO ASSURE THAT NO SUCH VIOLATION OCCURS. WHEN OUR MISSION CALLS FOR OPERATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SVN BORDER, PROCEDURES ARE STRICTLY FOLLOWED TO PRECLUDE UNAUTHORIZED BORDER PENETRATIONS AND ORDNANCE IMPACTS. GDS 31 DEC 79.

PSN: 001707

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TOR: 151/13:40Z

DTG: 311245Z MAY 73

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