

SECRET

HGA022
DE WTE 3346 2452057

O 012055Z SEP 72
FM GEN. HAIG
TO PETER RODMAN FOR MR. KISSINGER
ZEM
S S C R E T EYES ONLY WH27297

SEPTEMBER 1, 1972

FOR: KISSINGER

FROM: HAIG

I HAVE TALKED TO BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE ABOUT THE ATTACHED. IN THE CASE OF DEFENSE, I TOLD ADMIRAL MURPHY THAT VOGT SHOULD DEFINITELY GO TO LAOS ON SUNDAY SO THAT HE CAN GET A FIRST HAND APPRECIATION OF GODLEY'S PROBLEMS. I ALSO TOLD MURPHY THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO THE PRESIDENT HOW OPERATIONS IN LAOS COULD BE FALTERING ON THE BASIS OF INADEQUATE AIR SUPPORT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE URGING THE PRESIDENT TO REDUCE OUR AUGMENTATION FORCES.

FINALLY, I TOLD DEFENSE, IN YOUR NAME, TO TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO MEET WHAT GODLEY HAS DESCRIBED AS A TACTICAL EMERGENCY OF ONE OF VANG PAO'S UNITS. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.

WARM REGARDS.

ATTACHMENT

Z 011505Z SEP 72 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 026
BT
S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6636
EYES ONLY

OSD Review
Completed

SPGAT
PLEASE PASS TO CIA COMUSMACV SECDEF JCS WHITEHOUSE
FOR UNDERSECRETARY JOHNSON

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

CIA FOR DIRECTOR HELMS
MACV FOR GENERALS WEYAND AND VOGT
SECDEF FOR SECRETARY LAIRD
JCS FOR ADMIRAL MOORER
WHITEHOUSE FOR DR. KISSINGER

OPERATION PHOU PHIANG IS STALLED.
WEATHER HAS BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR INHIBITING TACAIR BOTH RLAF
I-28, AND USAF. LATTER HAS ALSO BEEN LIMITED DUE TO HIGHER PRIOR-
ITIES.

TASK FORCE DELTA ON THE NORTH WESTERN RIM OF THE PDJ HAS COME
UNDER HEAVY ABF AND ITS TWO G.M.S, 21 AND 26 BROKE LATE YESTERDAY
AND TODAY SUBSEQUENT GROUND ATTACK. OTHER TASK FORCES ARE NOT MOVING
FORWARD.

END PAGE ONE

Cable Churn : Hawaii Aug. 30 - Sept. 1

[REDACTED]

THIS IS NOT TRUE FOR HIS FORCES HAVE LACKED LEADERSHIP AND HAVE SUFFERED TO A HERETOFORE UNKNOWN DEGREE FROM TRENCH FOOT DUE TO INCESSANT RAIN. WEATHER AND HIGHER PRIORITIES HAVE, HOWEVER, RESULTED IN OUR NEVER HAVING SINCE THE INITIATION OF THE OPERATION MORE THAN EIGHTEEN USAF STRIKE SORTIES IN ANY SINGLE DAY. TODAY AND YESTERDAY WE DID HOWEVER RECEIVE ON B52 CELL. V.P. PUT THE PROBLEM VERY SIMPLY. HE MUST DECIDE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE DAYS WHETHER TO CONTINUE HIS OPERATION OR WHETHER TO PULL HIS TROOPS BACK TO THE LONG TIENG PERIMETER. WHETHER HE CONTINUES THE OPERATION DEPENDS IN HIS MIND ON USAF TACAIR SUPPORT AND HE ASKED ME IF I COULD GUARANTEE THIS TO HIM. THERE ARE ENEMY GUNS ON THE PDJ THAT ARE FIRING AT HIS TROOPS AND IF THEY CAN NOT BE DESTROYED HIS TROOPS ARE AT THEIR MERCY. LAST WEEKEND I SENT OFFICERS TO CONSULT WITH MACV RE OUR AIR REQUIREMENTS. THESE OFFICERS WERE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE DIFFICULTIES MACV IS ENCOUNTERING IN MEETING REQUIREMENTS IN SVN, NVN, AND CAMBODIA. I AM IMPRESSED WITH THE AIR PROBLEMS IN THOSE AREAS AND BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND THEM. SOME TIME AGO I INVITED GENERAL VOGT INFORMALLY TO VISIT LAOS. EARLIER TODAY I WAS INFORMED HE COULD COME HERE THIS SUNDAY AND I HAVE SENT WORD THAT I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF HE COULD SO DO. I PLAN TO TAKE HIM TO LONG THIENG DIRECTLY FROM UDORN. THIS EVENING I TOLD V.P. THAT THE GENERAL MIGHT BE VISITING LONG THIENG WITH ME AND GENERAL VESSEY AND WE COULD EXAMINE TOGETHER THE ~~PROBLEM~~

PR OBLEM. SUBENTLY COS AND I BRIEFED ACTING MIN NAT DEF SISOUK ON OUR TALK WITH V.P. FOR THE LATTER HAD TOLD US HE WOULD BE SEEING SISOUK TOMORROW. SISOUK AGREED TO MEET WITH US IN LONG THIENG ON SUNDAY. IF V.P. TERMINATES PHAI PHIANG IT WILL BE A VERY SEVERE BLOW TO LAO AND THAI MORALE. IT WILL MEAN THE END TO MY FURTHER ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE PDJ THIS YEAR AND FRIENDLY FORCES WILL RETREAT TO THE LONG THIENG PERIMETER. I BELIEVE WE CAN CONVINC V.P. TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION BUT WE MUST BE PREPARED TO INCREASE OUR TACAIR SUPPORT TO THE FORTY EIGHT ODD SORTIES A DAY SET FORTH IN THE PLAN. I KNOW THIS PRESENTS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR MACV AND THE WASHINGTON DECISION MAKERS. AS SEEN FROM VIENTIANE MY HOPE AND RECOMMENDATIONS IS THAT WE ACCEPT THIS UNDERTAKING. IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE I AM SEEKING ARCLIGHT STRIKES TO SUPPORT TASK FORCE DELTA IN ITS CURRENT TACTICAL EMERGENCY. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER THAT IF THE TACAIR SUPPORT WE NEED IS FORTHCOMING FURTHER ARCLIGHT REQUESTS CAN BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

GODLEY
BT
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SECRET