

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY~~

September 21, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Richard Kennedy

SUBJECT: Use of U. S. Land-based Air over Jordan

At the WSAG meeting on Saturday, Admiral Moorer presented the results of the study of the use of U. S. land-based air over Jordan. All agreed that since the most likely additional capability which could be brought to bear would be about 25% of existing daily sortie rate from the carriers and that the KENNEDY would add an additional 50% sooner than land-based air could be employed (seven days base preparation time), we should continue to rely on carrier-based air.

You asked that the facts be laid out in a memo to the President. A memo for this purpose is at Tab A.

Recommendation:

That you forward the memo at Tab A to the President.

NSS, OSD, JCS
reviews completed.

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY~~

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

SEP 21 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
SUBJECT: Use of U.S. Land-based Air Over Jordan

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed our options for the use of U.S. land-based air over Jordan as a show-of-force, to provide tactical air support for Jordanian forces, or to cover evacuation or resupply operations.

The critical factors in employing land-based air in this situation would be the availability of basing, staging and overflight rights and the availability at operating bases of fuel, ammunition and support for the operational aircraft.

- All possible bases in the area were examined and five were selected as acceptable for contingency operations -- two in Turkey, and one each in Cyprus, Greece and Crete.
-] The bases in Turkey (Incirlik and Cigli) would be the most advantageous. Fuel, ammunition and other support for F-4 aircraft are available and in the case of Incirlik, where 19 F-4s currently are in position, target areas could be reached without air-to-air refueling enroute. But there is little chance that Turkey would permit our launching operations over Jordan from its territory.
- The bases in Crete and Greece lack some of the required munitions, fuel and support equipment and operations from them would require air-to-air refueling enroute. To bring necessary supplies and equipment in by air would require about seven days before operations could begin. There is serious doubt that we could get political clearance for the use of these bases for operations over Jordan.
- Operations from the Cyprus base would not require air-to-air refueling but supplies and equipment would have to be moved in before operations could begin -- again this would

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

take about seven days. There is some possibility that we could get agreement to use the base from the Cypriot Government. The U.K. could give us permission unilaterally, but probably would prefer to have Cypriot agreement.

Only one base - Cyprus - seems a real possibility. This would permit us to conduct about 50 tactical air sorties daily over Jordan, or a 25 percent increase over the approximately 200 sorties we can operate from the carriers INDEPENDENCE and SARATOGA now on-station in the Eastern Mediterranean.

- Operations could not commence, however, for about seven days.
- If 200 sorties daily for seven days have not turned the tide, the addition of 50 more sorties alone would be unlikely to provide the measure of additional response needed to weight the balance in Hussein's favor.

The carrier KENNEDY is enroute to the Mediterranean now and will pass through Gibraltar on September 25th. Its aircraft can add 100 sorties daily to our capability.

- Given the seven day make-ready period for the Cyprus base, by September 21st, the KENNEDY will give us the capability to increase the sortie rate by 50% at an earlier date than we could produce a 25 percent increase using land-based air.

In view of the foregoing, the WSAG believes we should not plan on using land-based air for intervention in Jordan.

I recommend that we rely upon carrier-based air for our planning, including the added capability which the carrier KENNEDY will provide.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY