

JCS REVIEWED 28-Sep-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

REFER TO OSD



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MEMO TO:

7 Mar
Paul Henry

Re:

*Please show to
Mr. Kessinger*

*JAK has
seen
file B-52*
Jed Kearney

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OTS-HE-AM91

FLASH
 07 MAR 69
 Z 071022Z ZYR ZFF-1
 FM GEN WHEELER CJCS
 TO ZEN/ GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV
 ADM MCCAIN CINCPAC
 GEN HOLLOWAY CINCSAC
 LTG GILLEN CDR 3AD GUAM
 INFO ADM MOORER ACTING CJCS
 ZEM

BOOK COPY

✓	PARKER
✓	Handwritten
✓	JONASON
✓	ROBER
✓	KISSINGER

HANDCARRY →

~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE NOFORN MAC 2945 EYES ONLY

CJCS SENDS
 ABSOLUTELY FOR EYES OF ADDRESSEES ONLY
 REFERENCE: MAC 2907 DTG 062009Z

MAR 69 (CJCS SENDS) IS/MF.

1. REFERENCE MESSAGE APPROVING EXECUTION OF AIRLIGHT STRIKES AGAINST COSVN HEADQUARTERS IS RESCINDED, REPEAT RESCINDED.
2. COMUSMACV REQUEST TO CONDUCT A SHORT-DURATION CONCENTRATED B-52 ATTACK AGAINST COSVN HEADQUARTERS IS APPROVED FOR PLANNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.
3. THE ATTACK WILL CONSIST OF FORTY-TWO B-52 SORTIES AGAINST COSVN HEADQUARTERS AND EIGHTEEN COVER SORTIES AGAINST THREE TARGET BOXES IN SOUTH VIETNAM ADJACENT TO THE CAMBODIAN BORDER NEAR COSVN HEADQUARTERS.
4. COMUSMACV, IN COORDINATION WITH CG, II FFV, WILL GENERATE

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NORMAL STRIKE REQUEST MESSAGE FOR SUITABLE COVER TARGETS

FOR THE FORTY-TWO SORTIES PROGRAMMED AGAINST COSVN HEAD-
QUARTERS, FOR A TOTAL OF TEN TARGETS IN-COUNTRY.

5. TIMES OVER TARGET (TOT'S) WILL BE BETWEEN 0300 AND 0700,
SAIGON TIME, ON SUNDAY 9 MARCH.

6. THE TEN COMPRESSED STRIKES (60 SORTIES) WILL BE
FLOWN AGAINST THE TEN IN-COUNTRY TARGETS UNLESS AN
EXECUTION ORDER IS RECEIVED AT LEAST NINE HOURS PRIOR TO
THE FIRST TOT, I.E. NOT LATER THAN 1800 SATURDAY 8 MARCH,
SAIGON TIME. ON RECEIPT OF THE EXECUTION ORDER, SEVEN
STRIKES (42 SORTIES) WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE COSVN
TARGETS.

7. IN THE EVENT EXECUTION IS DIRECTED; ADDRESSEES CAN
EXPECT TO BE SO INFORMED BY RED ROCKET MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS:

" EXECUTE REPEAT EXECUTE OPERATION BREAKFAST".

8. THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS WILL APPLY:

A. NO SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE CONCERNING THESE STRIKES.

B. IF PRESS INQUIRIES ARE GENERATED BY ANY SOURCE OTHER THAN A
CAMBODIAN PROTEST, THEY WILL BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE.

C. SHOULD CAMBODIA REGISTER A PROTEST WHICH GENERATES QUERIES
FROM NEWS MEDIA:

(1) INDICATE SURPRISE.

(2) INDICATE THAT ON 9 MARCH, B-52 STRIKES WERE SCHEDULED AGAINST
TARGET AREAS CONTAINING MASSED ENEMY FORCES ABOUT SIXTY MILES

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NORTH-WEST OF SAIGON IN TAY NINH AND BINH LONG PROVINCES NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER. INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT THESE FORCES WERE INITIATING OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST FRIENDLY FORCES IN THE AREA. THIS MADE IT NECESSARY TO CONDUCT CONCENTRATED B-52 ATTACKS.

(3) FURTHER INDICATE THAT OPERATIONS ARE NOT PLANNED IN CAMBODIA, WE RESPECT CAMBODIAN TERRITORY, AND AN INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED. (WASHINGTON LEVEL WILL INVITE ICC INVESTIGATION SINCE-CAMBODIA WILL PROBABLY NOT ALLOW ICC TO INVESTIGATE, DRAG THIS OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.)

(4) IF POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF STRIKE IS NOT EXPOSED BY ANY SOURCE CONTINUE TO INDICATE ONLY THAT INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING, OR AFTER REASONABLE TIME, THAT INVESTIGATION REVEALS NO EVIDENCE OF VIOLATION OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY.

(5) SHOULD POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF STRIKE BE EXPOSED AND PRESSURE FROM NEWS MEDIA PERSIST, THE FOLLOWING COVER STORY WILL BE USED. THE ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 0300 AND 0700 ON 9 MARCH 1969, SAIGON TIME, WITH THE BOMBER FORCE RELYING ON GROUND-BASED RADAR SYSTEM FOR NAVIGATIONAL CONTROL AND BOMB RELEASE DIRECTION. CALIBRATION CHECKS MADE ON A ROUTINE BASIS FOLLOWING THE STRIKES INDICATE THAT AN ERROR HAD DEVELOPED IN THE GROUND RADAR EQUIPMENT DIRECTING THE ATTACK. THE

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MAGNITUDE OF THE ERROR HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, HOWEVER,
IT COULD ACCOUNT FOR SOME BOMBS FALLING IN CAMBODIA.
WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE AT WHAT TIME THE EQUIPMENT
MALFUNCTIONED. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT
THIS TIME TO DETERMINE HOW MANY AIRCRAFT WERE MISDIRECTED.
OUR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING. (IN ANSWER TO A QUERY FROM
THE PRESS: BECAUSE OF THE COMPRESSED TIMES FOR THE STRIKES, IT
WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CALIBRATE THE EQUIPMENT BETWEEN
WAVES OF STRIKE FORCES WHILE THE ATTACK WAS IN PROGRESS
AS IS USUALLY THE CASE.)

9. ALL MESSAGES CONCERNING THIS OPERATION, EXCEPT STRIKE
REQUESTS FOR THE TEN TARGETS IN-COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE
SEVEN COVER TARGETS, WILL BE EYES ONLY AND WILL BE
TRANSMITTED THROUGH SSO CHANNELS. DISTRIBUTION OF THESE
MESSAGES WILL BE MADE TO ADDRESSEES ONLY.

10. KNOWLEDGE OF THIS OPERATION WILL BE LIMITED TO THOSE
PERSONNEL ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ITS EXECUTION. SPECIAL
PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE
PERSONNEL ARE AWARE OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY INVOLVED.

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SSO NOTE: DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

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