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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by General Pauley  
and Colonel Carlson of the Joint Staff  
April 26, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: General Pauley  
Colonel Carlson  
Dr. Kissinger  
General Haig  
Commander Howe

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General Pauley: There was naval gunfire support activity between  
19 and 20° latitude. Three strikes were conducted  
on a POL/logistics storage site in the Cape Lay  
area. Bridge and coastal defense site in the Hon En,  
Thanh Hoa area and a bridge and communications  
station in the Hon En area.

Dr. Kissinger: What happened to the ships that are coming?

General Pauley: Six destroyers have arrived in Subic and 2 of these  
are in route to Yankee Station. Three others arrived  
yesterday at Subic.

Three enemy surface craft were sunk and one was  
heavily damaged in the action yesterday.

You know that tactical air is now hitting up to 20°.

Dr. Kissinger: Yes.

General Pauley: Yesterday there were 91 attack sorties flown in North  
Vietnam. The weather is currently bad; however, 24 of  
the 91 sorties were between 19 and 20° north latitude.

Dr. Kissinger: Did they hit anything?

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General Pauley: We have no BDA at this time.

With regard to ARC LIGHT strikes, there were a total of 74 flown. Of these 24 struck targets in MR 1, 35 in MR 2 and 15 sorties were placed south of An Loc in MR 1. There was a total of 578 tactical air strikes with a breakdown as follows: 81 in MR 1, 192 in MR 2, 153 in MR 3 and 61 in MR 4. There were 221 VNAF sorties and a total of 1002 sorties of all types conducted yesterday.

Turning to the situation in MR 1 there were 3 small contacts with a total of 200 enemy KIA with light friendly casualties. There was no activity in the Bastogne area. More than 1600 rounds of naval gunfire were used against targets to the north and south of the Cua Viet River.

In MR 2 there was 3 contacts in the coastal area in the Vinh Dinh Province.

Dr. Kissinger: What about the reports of increasing enemy activity?

General Pauley: The 3rd NVA Division which has not been particularly active in the past is causing some trouble. There was 1 Fire Support Base overrun 7 miles south of Vong Son.

Dr. Kissinger: What friendly forces are there?

General Pauley: A battalion of the 41st ARVN infantry regiment was involved in this action.

Dr. Kissinger: Where are the ROKs?

General Pauley: They are down to the south. In the An Kao base area ROK forces captured the high ground again but the base remains closed. There were 238 enemy KIA in this action.

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The situation in the highlands is basically the same. The enemy is stopped at the bridge to the north of Route 14. So far some 1500 sorties have infiltrated to Vo Dinh. The fact that a number of friendly troops remaining in the area in small groups has inhibited the use of tactical air. The 320th NVA Division is moving to the east of Rocket Ridge, however there were no contacts of consequence in the area.

Dr. Kissinger: It seems that the best troops are in Ben Het where they don't do any good.

General Pauley: The plan is to move 500 from Ben Het to Kontum today. Turning to MR 3, An Loc is still holding against enemy efforts.

Dr. Kissinger: The ARVN ought to be able to consolidate its forces.

General Pauley: There were 118 enemy killed in ground operations involving the 21st ARVN Division.

Dr. Kissinger: How many friendly were lost? Two? What is the 25th ARVN Division doing?

General Pauley: They are providing security to the area (north of the Parrots Peak).

Dr. Kissinger: They don't appear to be doing anything.

General Pauley: It is true that they are not moving. However there was a contact with units believed to be VC in which 50 enemy soldiers were reported killed. (This was 3 miles northwest of Cu Chi.)

Dr. Kissinger: It is astonishing to me that no division of ARVN helps the other one. Where is the airborne located that was pulled from the highlands?

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General Pauley: They are just to the southeast of An Loc, to the 3rd airborne brigade which is the second brigade that has been moved into the area.

Turning to MR 4 there was no reportable activity. In Cambodia at Kampong Trach there are now 9 friendly battalions present with a successful link-up of reinforcements. It is believed that the position of the First NVA Division in the area has been located and they are going to be 6 ARC LIGHT strikes on it today.

Dr. Kissinger: Is there nothing new around Binh Dinh?

General Pauley: The tempo is about the same as the last few days.

Dr. Kissinger: Can they get a major city in Binh Dinh Province and then trap everything in the highlands?

Colonel Carlson: I don't believe they have the strength to do it. When we rate enemy divisions, the 3rd NVA Division is at the bottom of the list. They are not a very effective division.

General Pauley: Yesterday you asked about the Newport News; the cruiser is due in Subic Bay on May 7.

Attached at Tab A are the notes used by General Pauley in making the briefing.