

DOS REVIEWED 14 JUL 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

JCS REVIEWED 14-Jul-2010: REFER TO OSD

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by Lt. Colonel Culbertson of the Joint Staff
April 4, 1972, from 8:10 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: JCS Briefer
Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Commander Howe

VIETNAM

Briefer: After a relative lull in ground combat activity, a higher level of activity has resumed this morning.

Kissinger: First, tell me how many air sorties have been flown.

Briefer: There were 132 tacair sorties.

Kissinger: Is that the total over all of South Vietnam?

Briefer: No, just in MR 1.

General Haig: I have just gotten a call from Admiral Moorer saying that they have knocked out that bridge in the DMZ and some tanks and are getting massive secondary explosions. Nine additional B-52s have been sent there and there is a destroyer screen in operation.

Kissinger: How many sorties were there over all of South Vietnam?

Briefer: I don't know. There were 27 B-52 sorties flown in the period ending yesterday at 11:00 a.m. EST. Fifty-one are scheduled today.

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Fire-Support Base Anne has fallen (located eight miles south of Quang Tri). At point 1 (on the coast) at the Qua Viet River a South Vietnamese naval base was evacuated and three friendly personnel killed. Elements of the South Vietnamese Navy sighted an unknown number of enemy tanks heading south of the Qua Viet River. Naval gun fire destroyed 4 of these tanks. Friendly units are under battalion size attack at two points and a regimental attack at a third point (along the river line above Dong Ha). At point 6 (several miles east of Dong Ha) an armored cavalry squadron engaged enemy forces, killing 95. At point 7 an OV 10 aircraft is down but there are beeper signals and contact with the crew. At point 8 (near Quang Tri) a helo is down.

There were no significant activities in MR 2. Updated figures indicate there were 353 enemy killed rather than 500. (This action was near Dak To, FSV Delta) total weapon losses thus far are 33 105 howitzers, 18 155 howitzers and 4 175 milimeter guns. There were 16 protective reaction strikes, bringing the total to 33.

Note: A brief report on Laos was then given following which Dr. Kissinger returned to the MR 1 area and asked whether the naval ships are firing.

Kissinger: Where are they?

Briefer: There are 5 DDGs supporting MR 1.

The weather is not particularly good but it may be better between 1300 and 1900 today.

General Haig: That reporting may be a little optimistic. Admiral Moorer said there would be a bad front over the next two days.

Kissinger: And we can't get our pilots to fly below 2500 feet. }

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LAOS

Briefer: In Laos the situation is quiet. Friendly troops recaptured point Charlie Whiskey on the Skyline Ridge.

Kissinger: Where are the Thais?

Briefer: I am not sure.

General Haig: They are there.

Kissinger: I can't believe the Laotians are really fighting.

Briefer: Friendly units now controls 6 of the helo pads along the Ridge while the enemy controls 3. Yesterday the ratio was 5 friendly, 2 enemy and 2 contested.

East of the Plain of Jars Task Force Bravo reported contacts with 2 NVA companies; Task Force Alpha had no contacts.

Attached at Tab A are the notes used by the briefer.

A. General Situation: After a relative lull in ground combat activity south of the DMZ in MR 1 for a few hours, a high level of action has resumed. Friendly units have withdrawn generally to positions south and east of the blue line ^{FSB ANNE LOGS} [on the enclosed map (Enclosure A)]. A total of 16 friendly positions have been evacuated since the start of the current enemy offensive. The loss of the South Vietnamese Naval Base at Cua Viet poses a threat to the right flank of Quang Tri. The Joint General Staff is taking steps to increase friendly combat power in MR 1.

B. Significant Combat Actions Reported:

Point 1 (1) Evacuation of the South Vietnamese Naval Base was completed at 031300 EST April. Friendly casualties sustained were three killed and 24 wounded. There have been no reports of equipment losses.

Point 2 (2) Elements of the South Vietnamese Navy sighted an unknown number of enemy tanks south of the Cua Viet River headed south. Naval gunfire was directed at the tanks, destroying four.

Point 3, 4, 5 (3) A late report indicates that friendly units are under attack at Points. Units at Points 3 and 4 each report being attacked by an estimated enemy battalion, while the unit at Point 5 reports being attacked by an estimated enemy regiment.

Point 46 (4) An ARVN armored cavalry squadron engaged an enemy force yesterday. Ninety-five enemy soldiers were killed and four crew-served weapons were seized. Friendly losses are unknown.

In the vicinity of ~~Point 7~~ location unknown, ~~the~~ ~~OV-10~~ was downed by a surface-to-air missile. Search and rescue operations are in progress for the two crewmen. Parachutes were observed, beeper signals have been heard, and voice contact has been established. ~~PO~~ The UH-1H helicopter is missing in the vicinity of Point ~~8~~. Search and rescue is underway for the four missing crewmen.

~~FOR ARVN HELICOPTERS~~
c. ARVN Steps to Counter the Offensive: 369th Vietnamese Marine Brigade consisting of 3 battalions from MR 3 to MR 1. In addition, US air assets will move three ARVN ranger groups and a command and control group (total strength 4,048) from Tay Ninh West to Hue/Phu Bai. The move was to begin on 4 April but whether it has actually commenced is unknown.

D. No significant new action in ~~area~~: Update information on the action reported yesterday near Dak To (~~FSP DEPTA~~) shows enemy losses were 353 killed (200 by air strikes), two individuals detained, and 158 weapons (37 crew-served seized. Twenty ARVN soldiers were killed and 54 were wounded. (11th ABN BN reinforcing 2d ABN BN)

REMARKS: Total ~~ARVN artillery losses~~ reported to date are 55 weapons (33 105mm howitzers, 18 155mm howitzers, four 175mm guns).

BRIDGE REWTEL SPAW DESTROYED -

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: 04/1900-05/1900 Saigon time

OUTLOOK: 05/1900-06/1900 Saigon time

RVN/MR I

North NKT.

*ADD
GROUND
LEVEL*

Coast N of 16.2N - Cloudy, ceiling 2,500 feet AGL except unlimited between 1300 and 1900 Saigon time; visibility 7 miles. During morning hours, occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in Fog.

Coast S of 16.2N - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited; visibility 7 miles. During morning hours, occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in Fog.

Mountains - Cloudy, ceiling 4,000 feet; visibility 7 miles occasionally 4 miles in rain and drizzle. During morning hours, occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in Fog.

OUTLOOK - Little change.

RVN/MR II

Coast and mountains east of Ridgeline - Cloudy, ceiling 2,500 feet AGL; visibility 7 miles occasionally 4 miles in rain. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in Fog.

Mountains west of Ridgeline - Partly cloudy, ceiling unlimited; visibility 7 miles. Isolated evening showers/thunderstorms. During morning hours, occasionally 1,000 feet AGL; visibility 1 mile in Fog.

OUTLOOK - Decreasing cloudiness.

NOTE: All cloud heights are in feet above mean sea level except those indicating AGL (above ground level).

LADS

Enclosure B

TUESDAY 4 APR

1972

HERE IS THE WORLDWIDE WEATHER,

MAJOR POINTS OF INTEREST ARE:

1. NONE

HERE IS THE RELOCATION WEATHER, AND TODAY'S SATELLITE
PHOTO OF SOUTHEAST ASIA:~~AND THE WEATHER FOR THE NVN PANHANDLE, SOUTHERN LAOS,
CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.~~FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, EXCEPTIONS TO USUAL S. E. A. APRIL
WEATHER ARE: GREATER THAN NORMAL CLOUD COVER FOR
THE NVN PANHANDLE AND COASTAL AREAS OF MR'S. T & II
IN RVN.

DMZ/MRI:

COAST - 7/8 CLOUDS, BASES 2500, TOPS 8000 EXCEPT
CLOUD COVER DECREASING TO 4/8 DURING
AFTERNOON HOURS; VISIBILITY 7 MILES.
DURING MORNING HOURS, OCNL 7/8 CLOUDS
BASES 500, TOPS 1500; VISIBILITY 1 MILE IN FOG
MOUNTAINS - 5-7/8 CLOUDS, BASES 4000, TOPS 8000;
VISIBILITY 7 MILES. DURING MORNING HOURS
OCNL 7/8 CLOUDS, BASES 500, TOPS 1500;
VISIBILITY 1 MILE IN FOG.LAOS PD/IMR2 FORECAST: 3/8 CLOUDS, BASES 4000, TOPS 8000,
2-5/8 CLOUDS, BASES 10000, TOPS 14000; VISIBILITY
3 TO 5 MILES IN MIST. ISOLATED SHOWER/THUNDERSTORM
ACTIVITY.