

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

REFER TO OSD

DOS REVIEWED 18 MAR 2011 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

**SUBJECT:** Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by General Vogt  
April 6, 1972, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:14 a.m.

**PARTICIPANTS:** General Vogt  
Dr. Kissinger  
General Haig  
Commander Howe

General Vogt: Naval gun fire has been concentrated on the air field and a SAM site in the Dong Hoi area. There were many secondaries. They are raising a hell of alot of havoc and are operating all the way down to Cape May (near the DMZ).

Kissinger: Are the guns accurate?

General Vogt: <sup>report</sup> There were lots of fires around Dong Ha <sup>where the</sup> ~~supporters~~ <sup>Spotters</sup> equipment overturned and bodies strewn around. I would say they are raising real havoc. The Lloyd Thomas was hit but it was 300 yards off the beach at the time. The damage was not serious.

Kissinger: Do we have any cruisers yet?

General Vogt: There will be one on the line starting tomorrow. In addition there will be 10 DDs on the line tomorrow and a total of 12 ships arriving over the next several days.

Kissinger: Do you need authority to go further North?

General Vogt: Well, we seem to be doing well now.

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OSD REVIEWED 02-Dec-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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Kissinger: How far up are they going now?

General Vogt: After indicating that he thought it was 17° 35 minutes, but checking his map stated that gun fire is as far north as 18° North.

Kissinger: Is 18° North enough for the time being?

General Vogt: Well, the Commander has asked to hit all the air facilities below the 19th parallel. We are having a success and taking a heavy toll of the enemy. There would be advantages in going higher.

Kissinger: If we leave it at 18° there will be a more concentrated effort (Vogt did not seem to argue with this point of view).

General Vogt: Turning to weather, it broke at noon yesterday a little earlier than we had anticipated. There were scattered clouds around Dong Hoi.

We had 45 ARCLIGHT sorties scheduled but only 20 were able to go due to the missile problem and weather. Those that went all hit in the area of troop concentrations in Quang Tri Province. Nineteen sorties were diverted to other areas. Over the next 24 hours 42 B-52 sorties are scheduled in the Dong Ha area.

Kissinger: What is the weather outlook?

General Vogt: The forecast is for continued scattered clouds through 7 p.m. Saigon time tomorrow. That means that from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. we should be able to have good activity.

Turning to MR-2, 22 B-52 strikes were diverted to the Kom Tum area there was no major ground activity there. The ARVN is patrolling aggressively. ARVN reports that in recent days 1000 of the 320th Division have been killed.

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No one is sure why the 320th Division has not attacked but the fact that it hasn't moved may be due to the B-52 effect and the good work of ARVN.

In I Corp there was little change in the military situation. The additional Marine Corps Brigade arrived at Quang Tri. The line seems to be holding. The enemy appears to be trying to come around to the West due to the strong ARVN defense along the river. Mobile ARVN teams are doing well in containing probes to the West. On Highway 1 the enemy attempted to interdict an area through infiltration and even built trenches along the road. The PF/RF moved in and killed most of the enemy.

We are still trying to get firm figures on tactical air sorties. There were approximately 120 flown in the general area of MR-1 and 67 in MR-2. Overall there was a total of 335 attack sorties and 440 including sorties of all kinds.

My assessment of the general situation in MR-1 is that the enemy is set to dig in for a sustained operation of long duration. They have 5 artillery, 11 infantry, and 2 armored regiments with up to 80 tanks in the area. They are also moving in a lot of anti-aircraft weapons. More significantly the control headquarters of the B-5 front has moved to a position between Hue and Quang Tri. It appears that they are controlling a concentrated effort against both these areas and this is the first time we have seen this. There are also reports that they have moved heavy artillery around to the West and along Route 9. This is very large artillery and if these 130mm guns with a range of 17 miles are being moved in south of Quang Tri, it could be a substantial threat to the ARVN positions.

In air strikes yesterday against the North, 7 SAMs were fired in the Dong Hoi area. The Navy flew 19 attack aircraft and 2 were lost. One received a direct hit and exploded in mid air, the other plane managed to get out to sea and the pilot was rescued. Air Force planes attacked SAM sites in

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in the DMZ area.

Our plans for tomorrow are to use 187 tactical air sorties against the Route 1 package. These are the supply routes above the DMZ. The VNAF flew 59 sorties in support of their efforts. They are concentrating on direct support to their troops in the Quang Tri area.

Kissinger: How about BDA reports on the attacks against the North?

General Vogt: We don't have anything now but are trying to get some assessments.

Kissinger: Are we flying any recon?

General Vogt: There should be more tomorrow following the heavier strikes. We will also try to get some pictures and they will be sent back here by our special system.

Kissinger: Do they understand they can use B-52s above the DMZ?

General Vogt: We are still looking for worthwhile targets. It is not that we are afraid to use B-52s there. If we can do some good with them we'll do it.

[Kissinger: If we can find targets to attack with B-52s below the DMZ why can't we find targets above the DMZ?

General Vogt: I believe we can. I believe our actions yesterday have reduced the SAM threat considerably.

In MR-3 the activity has slowed considerably. Two more North Vietnamese regiments have moved toward the South from the Cambodian border and we are somewhat concerned. There are now 4 regiments posing a threat (in the general area between the Parrots Peak and the Fish Hook) there were local actions here (pointing to area in South Vietnam near the Fish Hook).

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Kissinger: Are the Marine planes moving?

General Vogt: The decision has been made to move the Marines. As you know movement was delayed for political reasons. Eight Marine aircraft are in the Philippines and will be going into South Vietnam tonight. Eight more will arrive tomorrow.

Kissinger: What about the rest of the planes?

General Vogt: There will be a total of 2 squadrons of 14 planes each. In addition the Air Force is moving two squadrons from North Carolina on April 7, 8 and 9. A squadron of F-105 IRON HAND aircraft are flying from Kansas on the 8 and 9. The last of the new B-52s will be on station at daylight on the 7.

Kissinger: Are the B-52s under you?

General Vogt: General Abrams controls these directly, but I will talk to General Abrams when I get over there.

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Highlights of Briefing by General Vogt  
8:00 a.m. - April 6, 1972

- Naval gunfire has raised havoc around Dong Hoi with secondary explosions reported and to the south around the battlefield area above Dong Ha. Spotters report numerous equipment overturned and bodies strewn. The gunfire has raised real havoc.
- There will be 12 additional ships arriving in the area in the next several days including two cruisers and an aircraft carrier. One of the cruisers however only has missiles.
- There were 20 B-52 strikes in the Dong Ha area on troop concentrations. Some were diverted due to the missile problem and weather.
- The weather should be fairly good between 11:00 am. and 7:00 p.m. Saigon time. 187 tactical air strikes against routes above the DMZ are planned for tomorrow.
- There were 19 carrier strikes flown against SAMs sites in the Dong Hoi area. Two planes were lost but the pilot of one was recovered. Air Force planes attacked SAMs in the DMZ area, and we are still awaiting BDA. It is believed that the SAM threat has been reduced considerably.
- Yesterday there were 120 tactical air sorties in the MR 1 area. It appears that the enemy is digging in for a sustained operation. There are now five artillery, eleven infantry and two armor regiments in the area and they are moving up numerous anti-aircraft weapons. More significantly, the control headquarters of the B-5 front has moved in an area between Hue and Quang Tri and appears to be controlling forces in both areas in a concerted effort. In addition, there are reports that heavy artillery (130-mm guns with a range of 17 miles) are moving in along Route 9 south of Quang Tri and could pose a significant threat.
- In MR 1 there was little change in the military situation and an additional SVN Marine Brigade has arrived at Quang Tri. The enemy has been trying to come around to the west but mobile ARVN teams have been doing well in containing them.
- In the ~~Central~~ <sup>South</sup> area there was no major ground activity. It is possible that aggressive patrolling and air strikes are inhibiting the enemy.

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ARVN reports having killed over 1,000 of the 320th Division in recent days.

- In MR 3 activity has slowed down but there is concern about the movement of two more regiments into the area.
- Eight U.S. Marine aircraft should be arriving in Da Nang tonight with another eight arriving tomorrow. A total of 28 planes are being moved. Two Air Force F-4 squadrons will deploy from North Carolina on the 7th, 8th and 9th. An F-105 iron hand squadron will deploy from Kansas on the 8th and 9th. The last of the additional B-52s are expected to be ready by daylight on the 7th.

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