

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

JCS REVIEWED 29-Nov-2010: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

**SUBJECT:** Extracts from Briefing of Dr. Kissinger  
by the Joint Staff

**DATE:** April 13, 1972

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

Dr. Kissinger: How did the enemy know that our B-52 strike was coming? Have we ever studied this problem?

General Pauley: We believe the problem is in our clearance procedures. These have been looked into earlier in the conflict and steps taken to prevent detection.

Dr. Kissinger: How did they find out yesterday?

\* \* \* \*

General Pauley: Yesterday 69 B-52 sorties were scheduled and 67 flown.

Dr. Kissinger: What will the rate be when all our planes are there?

General Pauley: My guess is it will be from 69 to 72.

Dr. Kissinger: Is this all that we can get from 138 B-52's?

General Pauley: I don't have a firm estimate. I think it could be as high as 72 and maybe a little higher.

\* \* \* \*

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

-2-

General Pauley: MR-1 is a quiet sector. There were a number of small contacts but all were friendly-initiated. There is evidence that the 324 Division is in the Bastogne area.

Dr. Kissinger: That attack is still to come. Why don't we use B-52's there?

General Pauley: They have, but they didn't do it yesterday.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. Kissinger: How is the weather in MR-1?

General Pauley: Scattered clouds.

Dr. Kissinger: Can we fly?

General Pauley: Yes. Almost all of the flights yesterday were visual sorties.

Dr. Kissinger: Where did the 30 strikes north of the DMZ go?

General Pauley: My best estimate is that it was in the coastal area. We don't have a plot or any BDA yet.

\* \* \* \*

General Pauley: Route 19 has been closed down for some time.

Dr. Kissinger: Doesn't that affect logistics?

General Pauley: Yes. Qui Nhon is a logistics center.

Colonel Carlson: We expect it to be open on the 15th.

Dr. Kissinger: Is it a good idea to have so many units to the west?

General Pauley: They are protecting Kontum and Pleiku.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE

-3-

Dr. Kissinger: That's where the French were beaten in 1954.

General Pauley: We have the added advantage of airlift.

Dr. Kissinger: Not in the monsoon season. (To General Haig: Look into this situation.)

\* \* \* \*

Dr. Kissinger: What about the situation around An Loc? The news must be somewhat light. Can you get in from the south?

General Pauley: The airborne is moving slightly up the road.

Dr. Kissinger: Not airlifted?

General Pauley: No, not now. Two battalions are going to be inserted; however.

Dr. Kissinger: When?

General Pauley: Today. They have now started.

Dr. Kissinger: What took them so long?

General Pauley: They have been protecting the road. And there has been some enemy activity.

Dr. Kissinger: What happened there?

General Pauley: There was a considerable attack. ARVN found 200 KBA. And in a follow-up contact, 53 enemy were killed. There have been a number of probes and attacks by fire. An hour-and-a-half ago they were still under attack. There have been a number of enemy tanks and trucks destroyed.

Dr. Kissinger: We didn't know the enemy had this number of tanks in the area. How did they get there?

General Pauley: Gradual infiltrations. DIA is now carrying 30 in the general area. But the weather is good and we have lots of B-52's and tactical air. MACV reports that everything possible is being put into the battle. It is planned to insert 2 battalions of the 21st Division,