

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by General Pauly
and Colonel Carlson of the Joint Staff

DATE & TIME: May 19, 1972 - 8:10-8:30 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: General Pauly
Colonel Carlson
Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Captain McKee
Commander Howe

Dr. Kissinger: Let's see if we can do this in ten minutes.

General Pauly: In naval gunfire support, four destroyers struck several storage areas in the north. A leaflet drop of 17.5 million of leaflets was made by a C-130 aircraft employing the stanf-off wind drift technique. A F-4 leaflet mission scheduled over Hanoi was postponed due to the weather. It is planned for tonight at midnight Washington time.

Dr. Kissinger: I am not sure it should be done tonight.

General Pauly: The railroad bridge near the Chinese border has two spans down. It will be difficult to repair due to the rough terrain in which it is located. In strikes yesterday the results on the Hanoi POL storage area were excellent with six tanks destroyed. The strike against the Hanoi transformer station had to be scrubbed today due to bad weather. Heavy smoke was seen from highway and railroad targets in the Haiphong area.

Dr. Kissinger: By what reasoning are we not hitting Hanoi area when we will be away next week and you will not be able to make strikes there?

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2

General Panly: I don't know. We will question the field on this. The transformer was not hit because of weather.

Dr. Kissinger: Why not ask the field why they did not hit Hanoi.

General Panly: The night before last three MIGs were shot down and one U. S. aircraft lost. All targets last night were scrubbed due to weather and the sorties were diverted further to the south.

Thus far in the mining operation 1,624 mines have been laid. Last night 193 MK-36 destroyers were laid in the outer Haiphong area. There are now 24 foreign ships in Haiphong.

The briefers then showed Dr. Kissinger a map indicating where U.S. and Soviet submarines were presently located. Dr. Kissinger remarked "I am not worried about that."

General Panly: In B-52 activity all 75 of the scheduled missions were flown, with 12 in MR-1, 57 in MR-2, and six in MR-3.

Dr. Kissinger: I understand they closed Route 13 with B 52s. The craters are so bad they can't operate on it.

General Panly: We don't have any information on that. Tactical air activity there were 694 sorties with 134 in MR-1, 73 in MR-2, 165 in MR-3 and 40 in MR-4. There were 282 in North Vietnam.

In MR-1 there were seven friendly initiated actions causing 161 enemy KIA, 108 of these KBA. There was one Marine action which resulted in 22 enemy KIA. In naval gunfire off MR-1, three cruisers and six destroyers shelled various targets, including a truck park.

In MR-2, there was continuous pressure against Kontum. There were at least seven probes and in one case infiltrators broke into the town and 43 of these infiltrators have been killed. The Airport has now been opened and there is a plan to open Kontum base in the next couple of days. One enemy tank was destroyed by a tow missile.

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3

Dr. Kissinger: What are my darlings doing on the road?

General Pauly: Their progress is slow. We look to them to open it up tomorrow. Some units have been brought in close using helicopters.

Dr. Kissinger: Are they encircling each other now?

General Pauly: The enemy has managed to insert themselves between the friendly units and the helicopter operation was necessary to reduce pressure. There were 4,500 rounds of mixed rocket and artillery fire in the An Loc area. There are several enemy units operating down in the Parrots Beak area.

Dr. Kissinger: What units are down there?

General Pauly: The 24th and 271 regiment in MR-4. There was one action along the Cambodian border which resulted in 51 enemy KIA. This is the largest contact since thus far and it appears that there is heavy infiltration from the Fuk Phuc Long front.

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

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