

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE: August 10, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: Secretary Shultz
Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Commander Howe
Colonel Carlson
Colonel Everhard

The following are excerpts from the August 10, 1972 briefing:

Colonel Carlson: The wheather is poor to marginal.

Dr. Kissinger: This is the dry season. We have had 10 days in
a low of bad weather. Isn't that correct?

Colonel Carlson: Yes sir.

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Colonel Carlson: In Quang Tri there have been a large number of attacks
by fire including the use of tear gas.

Dr. Kissinger: Who is holding the bigger part of the city?

Colonel Carlson: The Marines for the major part of the city but they
do not have the Citadel. Overall the Marines have
the majority.

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Colonel Carlson: In the Bastogne area there were 500 rounds of artillery shells.

Dr. Kissinger: What are the Marine casualties in Quang Tri?

Colonel Carlson: According to the Operation Report 4, the Marines have killed about 700 of the enemy.

Dr. Kissinger: But how many are they losing in Quang Tri city?

Colonel Carlson: Do you mean since they assumed control in the city area?

Dr. Kissinger: Yes, exactly.

(The briefer reported on August 14 that since July 27 the Marines had suffered 130 KIA and 900 wounded having a total of 1100 enemy casualties.)

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Dr. Kissinger: What is the red circle there, a base area?
(Referring to the enemy base area directly west of Hue.)

Colonel Carlson: Yes, there will be a 2 regimental attack by the First and Airborne Divisions into that enemy base area which is number 114.

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Dr. Kissinger: How is Route 13?

Colonel Carlson: It is still essentially the same. There is light traffic on the road.

Dr. Kissinger: In the time they have had they could have built a new road rather than cleared the mines.

What about the situation in Cambodia. Haven't they lost a lot of men?

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Colonel Carlson: Yes, the Cambodians have suffered heavy casualties. There should be a link-up and reinforcement.

Dr. Kissinger: What town is Lon Nol complaining about the ARVN pulling out of?

Cdr. Howe: Neak Luong.

Dr. Kissinger: Which North Vietnamese unit is responsible for this action, for the activity around Kampon Trabick?

Colonel Carlson: It is an independent regiment. 23 tanks have been destroyed in the area. They have brought air drops for resupply using US C-130s. Tomorrow they are supposed to link up.

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Colonel Carlson: There is some movement of enemy troops in MR 4 and heavy trail activity.

Dr. Kissinger: Is anything being done?

Colonel Carlson: They are flying interdiction missions with helicopters but the Plain of Reeds is one big supply route for sampans now with the flooding.

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Dr. Kissinger: What are the black boxes?
(Referring to maps of B-52 sorties).

Colonel Carlson: These are the planned sorties for tomorrow.

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Dr. Kissinger: Are we staying away from up there?
(Referring to the Hanoi/Haiphong area.)

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If we are, we might as well get some political benefit from it. We have stayed away from ther for two weeks.

Colonel Carlson:

They have been directed to hit in route packages 6A and B.

(To Secretary Schultz)

George, the Air Force takes targets to the left of the red line and the Navy to the right. There are about 8 units involved in targetting The Air Force is designed for fighting Russians, meanwhile we can't do anything in Southeast Asia.