

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE: May 5, 1972

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

Dr. Kissinger: It would appear that most of our air strikes are
well below the 18th parallel.

General Pauley: They got up there above the 18th for some strikes
but it is true that most were below the 18th parallel.

Dr. Kissinger: They are testing my patience.

General Pauley: They did hit a railroad bridge near Qui Non which
is at the 19th Parallel.

Dr. Kissinger: Who controls this -- Abrams?

General Pauley: Yes.

Dr. Kissinger: (To Haig: Our heroes are flying below the 18th.)

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Dr. Kissinger: Why was there not much tacair in MRs 1 and 2?

General Pauley: The weather was not good. There were heavy
thunderstorms. We are using ARC LIGHT strikes
heavily.

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Dr. Kissinger: How far can the naval gunfire reach?

Colonel Carlson: As far as Highway 1.

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General Pauley: In an effort to open the Kontum Pass the airborne is moving to the south and the infantry up from Pleiku. Right now the airborne appears to be stalled on the road.

Dr. Kissinger: Why?

General Pauley: It is in contact with two companies of enemy.

Colonel Carlson: It will probably move at daylight.

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Dr. Kissinger: Are they going to come after An Loc?

General Pauley: We don't see a build-up in the area.

Dr. Kissinger: But the 21st Division doesn't seem to be moving. How did it get its reputation for being aggressive?

General Pauley: Well, it is true that the commander of the division has the reputation for being aggressive.

Colonel Carlson: It is the only outfit that succeeded in inflicting damage in the U Minh Forest. It went in there and did good work. But you must remember that the soldiers from the delta are fighting on new ground and this is a new job that they must do now that they are in MR-3.

Dr. Kissinger: Then I should have some hope when it starts raining. The airborne is not out of either place and they will never get up to Hue in time. Their plan is only theoretical. Can we ask Abrams for his realistic reinforcement plan?

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