

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE: May 10, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: General Pauley
Colonel Carlson
Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Captain K. R. McKee
Commander Howe

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After reviewing photographs of recent strikes against Vietnam, General Pauley proceeded with the briefing for that day.

General Pauley: Two hundred and thirty-six aircraft participated in strikes against the Hanoi/Haiphong area. Navy aircraft struck nine targets which were primarily in the Haiphong/Hai Dong area. 32 Air Force planes struck the Hanoi railroad bridge and the Yen Vien railroad yard. There were 12 direct hits reported on the railroad bridge.

Dr. Kissinger: Will that do it?

General Pauley: Well, I am not sure. The bridge has been downed only once before.

Dr. Kissinger: (Turning to General Haig) Even the Army could destroy something with 12 hits.

General Pauley: There were 49 SAMs fired against our aircraft and heavy anti-aircraft fired. Seven MIGs were downed and four F-4s were lost. General Vogt believes

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

2

that MIGs got the Air Force F-4's. SAMs apparently hit the Navy planes.

Dr. Kissinger:

Why didn't we go after Phuc Yen?

General Paulay:

As you know, there are two MIG fields kept up there in Phuc Yen. I don't know why they are not being hit. One of the Navy planes made it out and was recovered. (It was later learned that this plane had destroyed 2 or 3 of the MIGs and was headed for the carrier with missiles expended when it was hit by the SAM.) We hope by noon to have a full tally on the action.

In Naval gunfire support, two cruisers and two destroyers attacked coastal defense sites, SAM sites and POLs south of Haiphong. There has been no BDA reported. Tonight 7 mine fields will be seeded.

Dr. Kissinger:

I don't want to hear the characteristics of destructors. I understand you have one that plays the National Anthem.

Captain K. R. McKee:

I don't blame you.

Dr. Kissinger:

What we need are are mines that play the National Anthem of the ships that are passing overhead.

Did any of the ships go out of Haiphong?

General Paulay:

We have no reports of any movement.

Captain McKee:

We did have a report last night of 14 ships in the roads with 4 moving out.

Commander Howe:

Yes, but it wasn't clear if they were going in or out and the reports today from both NSA and DIA indicate they are still staying in place.

Dr. Kissinger:

How about that Russian ship that was shot at?

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

3

General Fauley:

The target in the Cam Pha area was a railroad/highway bridge. It was a last minute add-on and we checked it and we are told there were no ships located there.

Dr. Kissinger:

It is essential that we are careful about these ships. If there was a target in the area, wouldn't you say it was probable that we would hit the ship?

General Fauley:

I would have to measure the distance to know for sure. (He later stated that the railroad bridge and the ship were about one-and-a-half miles apart.)

In armed reconnaissance just north of the DMZ two SAMs and two SAM transporters were destroyed. There were a total of 1,117 sorties yesterday throughout Vietnam. These included 618 U.S. Of these 139 were in MR-1, 77 in MR-2, 141 in MR-3 and 25 in MR-4 and of course 236 were north of the DMZ. VNAF flew 166 missions.

In B-52 activity, 75 of the 75 scheduled missions were flown: 38 were in MR-1, 22 and MR-2, 6 in MR-3 and 73 in Cambodia and 2 in Laos.

Turning to the MR-1 situation there were some small actions in the vicinity of FSB King and FSB Birmingham. Elements of the 1st ARVN Division found 50 enemy bodies KBA along with 40 individual weapons. For the second straight day no SAMs were fired on at US aircraft. Although no BDA was reported, there was a large concentration of air and naval fire against positions to the north of ^{the} Hue defense line. South of DaNang two observation posts were lost but one was later retaken and 90 of the enemy were KIA.

Dr. Kissinger:

Do you think that is an accurate estimate?

General Fauley:

I think it is much higher. It could be double the amount. We just didn't get out and find all the people who were killed in our air activity.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

4

Dr. Kissinger: How many are wounded?

General Parley: The factor we usually use is 1&1/2 times the number killed.

Dr. Kissinger: Than 70,000 casualties is a fairly conservative figure.

General Parley: Yes.

Near Potei Kleng a VNAF A-1 aircraft was shot down.

In the Kontum City area, the 23rd Division now has 13 battalions with 10 tanks and 24 artillery pieces.

Dr. Kissinger: That is all the artillery pieces?

General Parley: Yes.

An Loc received 725 rounds of artillery fire. However, nine miles southeast of Benh Hoa a U.S. CH-47 helicopter blew up in the air and 32 persons on board were killed.

Dr. Kissinger: I suppose the 21st Division has not moved and that the Airborne is not out yet?

General Parley: That is correct. The other Airborne brigade however has moved to Hue.

In MR-4 there were no large contacts and the 2 small ones were friendly initiated.

At Tab A are the notes used by the briefing officer in making his presentation.

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