

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
Joint Staff

DATE: November 16, 1972

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

Colonel Carlson: The outlook for the next several days is for generally low clouds and poor weather from 14 to 20 degrees north with a frontal system in the area.

Dr. Kissinger: Does the weather affect the B-52s?

Colonel Carlson: No, they can do it on instruments and using LORAN bombing techniques.

Dr. Kissinger: Does 14 to 20 degrees cover the whole South?

Colonel Carlson: Pretty near. It extends down over MR-1 and MR-2. It will probably last for two or three days.

Dr. Kissinger: That means three weeks. What is the problem? Are we running low on new ordnance?

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Dr. Kissinger: Where is the 21st Division?

Colonel Carlson: (Using map, indicates the locations in south western MR-4.)

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Dr. Kissinger:

Their commander wants to sign a ceasefire.

Colonel Carlson:

There have been a number of contacts involving the 21st Division recently.

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Dr. Kissinger:

(Observing pattern of B-52 sorties in South Vietnam) It appears that all the strikes have been south of Vinh.

Colonel Carlson:

Yes, but tomorrow they are programmed further north.

Dr. Kissinger:

What are they hitting - airfields?

Colonel Carlson:

No.

Dr. Kissinger:

Are all the B-52 strikes under the control of General Weyand? Who picks the targets?

Colonel Carlson:

I don't know. I will call back. I am pretty sure General Weyand is taking care of Route Package One, but I will have to check on Route Packages Two and Three.

[Colonel Carlson called back with the following reply: "CINCPACAF in coordination with CINCPACFLT and MACV in conjunction with the Air Coordination Group in Saigon."]

Dr. Kissinger:

Why don't they hit the pass areas.

General Haig:

The enemy is moving most of their stuff through the DMZ.

Colonel Carlson:

B-52s and tacair hit fairly heavy in the area last night.

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Colonel Carlson:

The 224 anti-aircraft regiment has moved from South Vietnam into North Vietnam.

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General Haig:

Does that make four that has moved north now?

Colonel Carlson:

Yes.

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November 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR JON HOWE

FROM:

Jim Fazio



SUBJECT:

B-52 Authorities

Col. Carlson called with the following answer to HAK's question regarding the responsibility for targeting B-52 strikes in the North.

"CINCPACAF in coordination with CINCPACFLT and MACV in conjunction with the Air Coordination Group in Saigon."

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