

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: JCS Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by
Colonel Carlson

DATE: December 19, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Kissinger
Colonel Kennedy
Commander Howe
Colonel Kiems
Colonel Carlson

The following are excerpts from the December 19, 1972:

Dr. Kissinger: [Commenting on weather report] What in practice does that mean? Can our aircraft get in there for visual strikes.

Colonel Kiems: Yes.

Dr. Kissinger: But they did not do so last night?

Colonel Kiems: They did not go in visually but they did use LORAN.

Dr. Kissinger: What were the targets?

Colonel Kiems: We don't have that information right now.

Colonel Carlson pointed out one target south of Haiphong.

Dr. Kissinger: If we could let you hit only boats and airfields weather would never deter us.

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Colonel Kiems:

There was only one incident in MR-3.

Dr. Kissinger:

Does that mean the ARVN are not looking.

Colonel Kiems:

No, it just means there is no contact with any enemy units.

Dr. Kissinger:

Yes, but is the activity low because the ARVN has not initiated any operations?

Colonel Kiems:

There are some operations going and there were 7 light contacts due to friendly operations.

Dr. Kissinger:

I have been watching General Minh for two years and he has never initiated a contact.

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Colonel Kiems:

There were 100 SAMs fired against U.S. aircraft yesterday.

Dr. Kissinger:

Is that alot?

Colonel Kiems:

Yes, but not the kinds of amounts we saw when they first went against Haiphong. I recall levels of 200 SAMs per day.

Dr. Kissinger:

But we didn't lose any B-52s at that time.

Colonel Kiems:

That is correct.

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Dr. Kissinger:

[Referring to strikes being conducted by tactical aircraft in daylight hours.] Where are they trying to go in?

Colonel Kiems:

They are hitting some targets with laser guided bombs and some with LORAN.

Dr. Kissinger:

Which targets are being hit with laser guided bombs? Don't you need good visual conditions for that?

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Colonel Kiems: Yes, but there have been breaks in the clouds.
We will check on that.

Dr. Kissinger: [To Commander Howe] Will you get me the
information?

Commander Howe: Yes sir.

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Colonel Kiems: Anti-aircraft units are being moved south across
the DMZ.

Dr. Kissinger: Does that suggest another offensive is being planned?

Colonel Kiems: Well only anti-aircraft units have been programmed
to move thus far.

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