

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by Colonel Carlson

DATE: December 26, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Commander Howe
Colonel Carlson, Briefer

The following are excerpts from the December 26, 1972:

Dr. Kissinger: (Acknowledging presence of third briefer)
Why do I rate three briefers? I am flattered.

Colonel Carlson: We wanted a flyer to discuss the air situation.

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Dr. Kissinger: (Referring to situation in MR-3.) What's my friend Minh doing?

Colonel Carlson: There are many small unit shifts being made and a number of operations in the area. ARVN is attempting to maintain contacts but there were no major engagements. ARVN is beating the bushes however.

Dr. Kissinger: (Referring to B-52 targets) Do we know the bombs were dropped on the shop? (Referring to Langdang a target just inside the buffer zone.)

Colonel Kiems: There is no BDA but the pilots reported fire through the overcast.

Dr. Kissinger: It would appear that they hit Gia Lam by mistake.

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Colonel Kiems: There were no SAMs observed.

Dr. Kissinger: How far north did they fly?

Colonel Kiems: Just inside the buffer zone.

Dr. Kissinger: How do you explain so few SAMs?

Colonel Kiems: They were going farther to the north and the SAM units have been pulled. In addition they were coming both from Laos and the Gulf of Tonkin which should have confused the enemy's air defenses.

Dr. Kissinger: What targets are they hitting?

I hope they fly at different altitudes. When will we know how they did?

Colonel Kiems: They should be over the target between 10:30 and 10:45.

General Haig: So we should know about noon.