

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

JCS REVIEWED 29-Nov-2010: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

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

DATE: January 3, 1972 [1972, J]

PARTICIPANTS: Colonel Carlson
Colonel Kimes
Dr. Kissinger
General Scowcroft
Commander Howe

Colonel Carlson: The situation in MR-1 is very quiet.

Dr. Kissinger: What do you conclude from that?

Colonel Carlson: Well, the enemy is not pushing and the ARVN is not pushing. The enemy appears to be moving from the area west of Quang Tri, farther to the north in defensive positions.

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Dr. Kissinger: The ARVN does not seem to be moving out either.

Colonel Carlson: Down in the south they are - in the southern area of MR-1. Around Que Son they are pushing out and should be running into some enemy resistance.

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Colonel Carlson: In MR-2 there is nothing going on in the coastal area.

Dr. Kissinger: With 300,000 North Vietnamese in South Vietnam, how can we miss finding them?

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Colonel Carlson:

Well there was some activity near Kon Tum. There is fighting to the north and Kon Tum Pass is closed and there have been some contacts in that area.

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Dr. Kissinger:

[Referring to indications of enemy units on the map of MR-3] I am assuming that if you know where the enemy units are, General Minh also knows. Why are there no ARVN units close by? [Referring to the area south of Saigon]

Colonel Carlson:

Of these areas are being covered by RF and PF forces and there are no indications of their units' strength on the map.

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Dr. Kissinger:

How many B-52 sorties altogether were flown yesterday?

Colonel Carlson:

One-hundred and three sorties with two aborts. Thirty-nine B-52s hit six targets in southern North Vietnam.

Dr. Kissinger:

You realize don't you that you can go up as high as the 20th parallel?

Colonel Kimes:

Yes, they know. Yesterday they went up there, but today they are not scheduled to.

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Dr. Kissinger:

[Referring to situation report on Chinese merchant ships off North Vietnam] Are they back now to using WBLCs?

Colonel Carlson:

No. They only did it for one day. The one day of the standdown.

Colonel Kimes:

Today no WBLC activity was noted.

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