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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Dr. Kissinger's Comments During the JCS Briefing

DATE: October 30, 1972

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

Dr. Kissinger: (Referring to the situation in MR-3) With that number of friendlies killed, they must be doing some fighting unless they are shooting themselves in the leg.

Colonel Carlson: Reports from MR-3 are not as favorable as in MR-4. In MR-4 there were 71 friendly initiated incidents and more than 200 enemy killed. The reports are not so optimistic on the aggressiveness of the friendly forces in MR-3.

Dr. Kissinger: (To General Haig) Is the Chairman back in town?

General Haig/
Colonel Carlson: No.

Dr. Kissinger: Can we get him back so we can do this last month with some coordination?

Colonel Carlson: 51 B-52 aircraft hit 102 targets.

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2

Dr. Kissinger: Why only 51?

Colonel Carlson: Some of them had been dispersed because of a typhoon. These particular aircraft were double targeted.

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Dr. Kissinger: When you say 132 sorties over North Vietnam, do you mean attack sorties?

Colonel Carlson: Yes, 132 attack sorties.

Dr. Kissinger: Are there still six different commanders controlling our operations between 18 and 20 degrees north. Are six different commanders assigned to hit each little sliver of territory?

Colonel Carlson: They are making a combined effort.

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Dr. Kissinger: (With reference to special designation on map for F-111 flights) People think I have a special interest in F-111s. Frankly, I couldn't care if they were C-147s. Apparently it is a great fascination to the Air Force.

Colonel Carlson: There is no special reason for emphasizing the F-111s.

Dr. Kissinger: It must be quite a sight to see an F-111 chasing a truck down a road.

Colonel Carlson: I don't think they are doing that.

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