

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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

DATE: November 1, 1972

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

The following are Dr. Kissinger's comments during the JCS briefing on the situation in Vietnam given on November 1, 1972:

Kissinger: (Referring to the situation around Ba To)
What ARVN division is involved there?

Carlson: The 2nd.

Kissinger: It isn't very good, is it?

Carlson: It has done a fine job in that area in the past month. It really is excellent and has done a good job since it shifted its forces down there (southern MR-1). As you know the 2nd Division is moving forces to the south to keep Route 1 open.

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Carlson: Report of friendly casualties in action around Kai Lay in MR-4 indicates 61 wounded and 30 missing as well as 15 radios captured by the enemy.

Kissinger: What is the ARVN doing with 15 radios. Isn't that quite a few?

Carlson: Yes it is. They must have gotten into a command group and perhaps the command groups for several

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Kissinger: (To Haig) Is the Chairman back yet? (Briefer was briefing on air effort over North Vietnam.)

Haig: He will be back tomorrow evening.

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Kissinger: Are we flying up to the 20th parallel or are we improving on the Presidential order?

Carlson: Yes we are.

Kissinger: But are we flying right up to the 20th. I want to know whether we are using the full authority.

Carlson: (Indicates on map that strikes have been as high as 19° 50' on previous day.)

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Kissinger: I have seen stories that we are no longer seeding the mines. Is that correct?

Carlson: No, we are still doing it.

Kissinger: How about north of the 20th parallel?

Carlson: No, sir. We haven't.

Kissinger: Why not?

Carlson: The mines there are still effective.

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