

MEMORANDUM

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February 19, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: B-52 Strikes in Laos

We have received additional information on the results of the B-52 strikes in the Plain of Jars (Tab A).

Low-level visual reconnaissance of the target area indicates extensive destruction. The few bunkers uncovered by the blast could indicate that the enemy was unprepared for a strike of such magnitude.

Three six-man teams inserted in the area report "many, many enemy dead." The teams are still in the area and I will report further information as it becomes available.

OSD review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI C05077129

*apparently it had very little effect in deterring their attacks -*

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February 19, 1970

FROM: Vientiane (Ambassador Godley)  
TO: Department of Defense  
SUBJECT: Arclight Eastern PDJ Area

1. [ ] continued low level visual reconnaissance of target area indicates extensive destruction in target core. A few gaps in coverage occurred on the perimeter of the target. A few bunkers and spider holes were uncovered by the blast but were not extensive, possibly indicating enemy was unprepared for strike of such magnitude. One area was covered with considerable debris indicating supplies had been struck. Since the strike there has been little trail activity observed in target area. The most extensive activity has occurred along the stream bed.

25X1

2. Three six-man BDA teams were inserted in the area. Twenty enemy bodies were counted near infiltration point alone. Air to ground contact with teams indicates that they were subjected to enemy pressure as soon as they fanned out from infiltration point. They report "many, many enemy dead". They are encountering difficulty counting KIA because some are buried and many fragmented. Teams report shortage potable water due to contamination by cadavers. Teams are attempting to take photographs. Further information will be furnished as available.

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