

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Air Activity in Southeast Asia

The President has directed the preparation of an evaluation of our current air activities in Southeast Asia and alternative programs for FY 71.

This evaluation should:

-- describe current Allied air activity by mission and target in each operational area: South Vietnam, Southern Laos, Northern Laos, and Cambodia;

-- analyze the effectiveness of air activity in performing its major missions, as determined by its immediate effects (trucks destroyed, enemy killed, etc.) and the implications of these effects for the enemy's military capability in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam;

-- evaluate the effectiveness of alternative sortie levels and munitions loadings for each major mission in each operational area;

-- formulate alternative tactical air and B-52 programs for Southeast Asia in FY 71 and their rationales;

-- determine the force levels and mixes required for alternative air programs including some consideration of possible improvements in the efficiency of our air activities through changes in the aircraft, ordnance, etc. used;

OSD and JCS reviews  
completed

On file NSC release instructions  
apply.

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-- the budgetary requirements for alternative air programs.

This evaluation shall be prepared by the Vietnam Special Studies Group Working Group. The study shall be completed by July 15 and, following VSSG review, submitted to the President.

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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