

SECRET/SENSITIVE

ACTION

16 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Frank Chapin

SUBJECT: Covert Operations in North Vietnam

At Tab A is a memorandum to Dave Packard which Al Haig asked me to prepare for your signature.

At Tab B are two memoranda on which you indicated your intention of taking the action which you are informing Mr. Packard you will take.

At Tab C is Mr. Packard's memorandum and attachment.

At Tab D is your memorandum of 5 March 1970 addressed to the Secretary of Defense.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached memorandum to Mr. Packard at Tab A, after which I will distribute copies of his memorandum to the other 40 Committee principals and schedule it as an agenda item for an early Committee meeting.

Attachments

    Tabs A - D

JCS, OSD, NSS, reviews  
completed

MORI/CDF C05140421 Pages 2-9

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A

**TOP SECRET****SENSITIVE**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

8 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Covert Operations in North Vietnam (S)

By your memorandum of 5 March 1970, subject as above, you requested a monthly report, commencing 1 April, of Defense Department efforts to identify targets and to develop plans for covert operations in the area of North Vietnam [redacted]

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Our initial efforts in this regard have centered upon analyzing the current capabilities of our covert assets in South Vietnam. To that end, COMUSMACV and CINCPAC were asked to report on the current capability to re-institute covert maritime operations against North Vietnam. You will recall that within MACV, the Studies and Observation Group (MACSOG) is responsible for covert operations against North Vietnam. With the bombing halt of 1 November 1968, these covert forces have been inactive insofar as operating against North Vietnam is concerned; however, they have been retained in a state of readiness.

Attached as an annex to this memorandum is the requested report. This report reveals, inter alia, that since the four [redacted] coastal targets are not considered to be readily accessible from the beach within acceptable risk factors, they are not recommended for cross-beach exploitation. You will note that this attachment only addresses the covert maritime capability. The JCS is now preparing an additional report which will cover the entire range of our covert capability. This report will be forwarded in a few weeks.

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The primary target identified by this initial report is the Hanoi leadership via the interception and propagandizing of North Vietnamese coastal fishermen. This operation, which

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was halted just prior to the 1 November 1968 bombing halt, could be resumed by MACSOG in seven days and at the initial rate of seven to ten missions per month. At the same time, while operations against the fishing fleets are considered by MACV and CINCPAC to be the most lucrative, coastal intelligence and/or interdiction missions are also within MACSOG capabilities.

It is clear that the Committee will specifically approve any covert operations in North Vietnam. At the same time, in the absence of contrary guidance, the DOD will continue to maintain the capability described in the attachment. For these reasons, I suggest that we do not ask for monthly reports on covert operations in North Vietnam but rather consider these matters as they are presented to the Committee for decision.



David Packard

Attachment  
As noted

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B

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

SECRET/SENSITIVE

March 5, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Covert Operations in North Vietnam

The President has approved the following division of labor for covert operations in North Vietnam:

[Redacted]

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-- the Department of Defense has responsibility for targeting and development of operations for the rest of North Vietnam.

[Redacted] assist the Defense Department in carrying out action operations in the area assigned to DOD. I have been informed [Redacted] our potential targets which are accessible from the coast.

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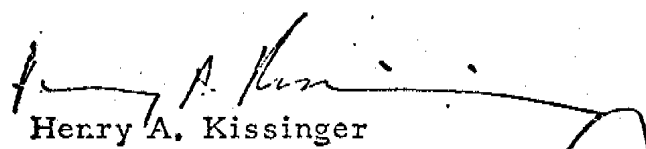
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The President has requested a monthly progress report on the results of Defense Department efforts to identify targets and develop plans for covert operations in the area of North Vietnam [Redacted]

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[Redacted] The first report should be submitted on April 1, 1970.

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Henry A. Kissinger

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