

SECRET

11:4228 OCT 72
SITUATION ROOM
FOR DR. KISSINGER

~~TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH29585

ICMA/40

OCTOBER 11, 1972

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN VIETNAM

THE AIRBORNE DIVISION MADE SOME PROGRESS YESTERDAY AGAINST
ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 304TH DIVISION. FORWARD
ELEMENTS OF THE AIRBORNE DIVISION OCCUPIED POSITIONS TWO KILO-
METERS FROM FIRE SUPPORT BASE ANNE AND THREE KILOMETERS FROM
FIRE SUPPORT BASE BARBARA.

THE MARINES REPORTED LITTLE ACTION IN THEIR AREA OF OPERATION.

THE ARVN 3RD DIVISION IS EXPANDING ITS AREA OF CONTROL IN QUANG
NAM AND QUANG TIN PROVINCES AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE.
REFUGEES HAVE BEGUN RETURNING TO QUE SON AND TIEN PHUOC.

INCREASED SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND INDIRECT FIRE INDICATE CON-
TINUED ENEMY PRESENCE IN QUANG NAI PROVINCE. AT HA TO ENEMY
PRESSURE CONTINUES AGAINST ARVN FORCES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT
ENEMY FORCES CAPTURED NEAR 5,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE IN MO
DUC AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS IN RECENT WEEKS.

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ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 2 REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL. IN MILI-
TARY REGION 3 YESTERDAY, MOST ACTION WAS ARVN-INITIATED. ENEMY
FORCES IN SOUTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE ARE CONTINUING TO MOVE
SOUTHWARD TOWARD THE SAIGON AREA. ARVN FORCES ARE TAKING ACTION
TO CLEAR HAMLETS THAT THE ENEMY HAS OCCUPIED IN SOUTHERN BINH
DUONG AND YESTERDAY REPORTED THAT FOUR OF EIGHT HAMLETS HAD
BEEN CLEARED OF ENEMY FORCES.

ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 4 WAS MODERATE. IN CAMBODIA SOUTH
OF KAMPONG TRABEK, THE BLOCKING OF ENEMY SUPPLY ROUTES APPARENTLY
IS BEGINNING TO PINCH. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT ENEMY
ELEMENTS IN DINH TRUONG PROVINCE ARE EXPERIENCING SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

TODAY, A TOTAL OF 446 U.S. TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN, 291
OF WHICH HIT TARGETS IN NORTH VIETNAM. SEVENTEEN B-52 STRIKES
WERE FLOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM. NINE B-52 SORTIES WERE FLOWN OVER
CAMBODIA AND FIVE IN LAOS.

OSD review
completed

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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MILITARY REGION 1

~~THE ARVN 2ND DIVISION HAS REPORTED THAT IT HAS
WITHIN 2 KILOMETERS OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE ANNE AND TO WITHIN 3
KILOMETERS OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE BARBARA.~~

-- THE MARINES REPORTED LIGHT ACTION IN THEIR AREA.

-- NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE AND IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG TIN PROVINCES; THE ARVN 3RD DIVISION IS MEETING ONLY LIGHT RESISTANCE AS IT EXPANDS ITS AREA OF CONTROL.

-- REFUGEES HAVE BEGUN RETURNING TO QUE SON AND TIEN PHUOC INDICATING CONFIDENCE THAT THE GVN HAS RESTORED ITS CONTROL IN THOSE AREAS.

-- A HEAVY INDIRECT FIRE INCIDENT AND A GROUND ATTACK WERE REPORTED LAST NIGHT AT BA TO.

-- IN THE LOWLANDS TO THE EAST, ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG ROUTE 1 CONTINUE BETWEEN MO DUC AND DUC PHO.

-- THE ARVN 2ND DIVISION BEGAN AN OPERATION IN SON TINH DISTRICT TODAY TO CLEAR AREAS EAST OF ROUTE 1 AND NORTH OF THE TRA KHUC RIVER WHILE OTHER UNITS SWEEP ALONG THE SONG VE RIVER.

-- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ENEMY TOOK NEARLY 5,000 TONS OF RICE FROM MO DUC AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS IN RECENT WEEKS.

MILITARY REGION 2

TWO SMALL ACTIONS NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF THE ACTION IN THE REGION YESTERDAY.

-- PHASE 1 OF THE ARVN 22ND DIVISION'S OPERATION THAT BEGAN ON JULY 19 TERMINATED YESTERDAY AND PHASE 2 WAS INITIATED. DURING PHASE 1, ARVN REPORTED 2,653 ENEMY KILLED AND 10,326 PEOPLE RETURNED TO GVN CONTROL.

MILITARY REGION 3

ENEMY FORCES IN SOUTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE APPARENTLY ARE CONTINUING TO MOVE SOUTHWARD TOWARD THE SAIGON AREA.

-- AGENTS REPORT THAT ADVANCE ELEMENTS OF THE 429TH SAPPER GROUP ARE NOW JUST WEST OF HOC MON DISTRICT TOWN, 10-15 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF SAIGON.

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-- ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 205TH REGIMENT ARE REPORTED TO BE LOCATED NEAR PHU CUONG IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE.

-- GENERAL MINH HAS TAKEN POSITIVE ACTION TO MOVE TROOPS INTO SOUTHERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE TO CLEAR THE HAMLETS THAT THE ENEMY OCCUPIED. FOUR OF THE EIGHT PROVINCES THAT HAD BEEN OCCUPIED ARE NOW CLEARED AND ARE IN GVN HANDS.

MILITARY REGION 4

ACTIVITY WAS MODERATE WITH REPORTED ENEMY INCIDENTS PRIMARILY OF LOW INTENSITY AND DIRECTED AGAINST OBSERVATION POSTS.

-- SOUTH OF KAMPONG TRABEK IN CAMBODIA, A REGIMENT OF THE ARVN 7TH DIVISION CONTINUES TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE NVA 207TH REGIMENT.

-- APPARENTLY THE BLOCKING OF ENEMY SUPPLY ROUTES IN THIS AREA IS BEGINNING TO PINCH. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE IS EXPERIENCING SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

-- THE MILITARY REGION 4 COMMANDER HAS AGREED TO ASSIST FANK IN RESTORING PHNOM PENH'S CONTROL IN THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS AREA AND WEST OF TAKEO AS SOON AS THE SITUATION WILL PERMIT.

U.S. AIR AND NAVAL ACTIVITY

THE FOLLOWING AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN TODAY:

	MR-1	MR-2	MR-3	MR-4	NUM	TOTAL
U.S. TACAIR	78	18	38	24	291	446
VNAF TACAIR	37	39	70	37	6	183
B-52	35	7	26	3	17	102

NINE B-52 SORTIES WERE FLOWN AGAINST TARGETS IN CAMBODIA AND FIVE IN LAOS.

TODAY, TACTICAL AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED TO STRIKE SEVERAL TARGETS NORTH OF HANOI, INCLUDING THE GIA LAM RAILROAD SHOPS, YEN BAI AIRFIELD AND BARRACKS, LANG CHI AMMUNITION PLANT, HOAN HA POL

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STORAGE AREA, VU CHUA RAILROAD SIDING, AND SEVERAL BARRACKS. SOUTH OF HANOI, THE QUANG LANG AIRFIELD WAS SCHEDULED, ALONG WITH SEVERAL BARRACKS AND BRIDGES. WEATHER IN NORTH VIETNAM WAS DESCRIBED AS POOR.

SOME 28 SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE FLOWN NORTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL, WITH 246 SCHEDULED FOR SOUTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL.

RP-1	RP-2	RP-3	RP-4	RP-5	RP-6A	RP-6B	OFFSHORE	TOTAL
63	105	78	2	0	1	3	22	274

YESTERDAY TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FLEW 274 COMBAT SORTIES AND STRUCK 13 PRIMARY AND 15 SECONDARY TARGETS. ADVERSE WEATHER IN THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY FORCES SOME STRIKES TO BE DIVERTED TO THE SOUTH.

USAF F-111S FLYING NIGHT SORTIES BOMBED 11 PRIMARY TARGETS, INCLUDING THE LANG CHI AMMUNITION PLANT 60 MILES NORTHWEST OF HANOI, THE LANG DANH STORAGE FACILITY 35 MILES NORTH OF HANOI, AND THE KOM BAI BARRACKS AREA 30 MILES NORTHWEST OF HANOI. DARKNESS PRECLUDED AIRCREW DAMAGE ESTIMATES.

USN AIRCRAFT BOMBED THE BAI THUONG AIRFIELD 30 MILES WEST OF THANH HOA AND REPORTED 14 CRATERS DOWN THE CENTER OF THE NEW RUNWAY, 14 CRATERS ALONG THE CENTER OF THE OLD TAXIWAY, ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION, AND TWO ROAD GRADERS DESTROYED. SOUTH OF VINH, OTHER NAVY JETS DROPPED A SPAN IN THE NINH XA HIGHWAY BRIDGE AND CAUSED SUSTAINED OIL FIRES AT THE BINH LANG PETROLEUM STORAGE AREA. MIDWAY BETWEEN VINH AND DONG HOI, USN AIRCRAFT HIT THE TRUNG BAM COAST DEFENSE SITE, DESTROYED ONE BUNKER, AND CAUSED ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION. IN THE SAME AREA, OTHER NAVY FIGHTER-BOMBERS DROPPED THE THIEN TRI AND QUANG ICH HIGHWAY BRIDGES AND DESTROYED ONE GUN AT THE PHU NINH COAST DEFENSE SITE.

IN STRIKES AGAINST INTERDICTION POINTS, MILITARY FACILITIES, AND TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY, USAF AND USN AIRCRAFT DESTROYED OR DAMAGED 21 STACKS OF SUPPLIES, 19 TRUCKS, EIGHT BRIDGES, SIX POL TANKS, FIVE BUILDINGS, FIVE WAREHOUSES, TWO AA GUNS, ONE RADAR VAN, AND ONE COAST DEFENSE SITE. THE AIRCREWS ALSO OBSERVED 21 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND 12 SUSTAINED FIRES.

A F-4 WAS DOWNED BY UNKNOWN CAUSES 20 MILES NORTHWEST OF DONG HOI. TWO BEEPERS WERE HEARD, BUT NO CHUTES WERE SEEN. SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE PLANNED TO START AT DAYLIGHT THIS MORNING.

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NAVAL OPERATIONS

TWO CRUISERS AND FIVE DESTROYERS CONDUCTED NAVAL GUNFIRE STRIKE, SURVEILLANCE, AND INTERDICTION OPERATIONS. TARGETS INCLUDED THE HA TINH HIGHWAY FERRY, THO THANG POL STORAGE AREA, XOM VAN MY STORAGE AREA, THIEN KI HIGHWAY CROSSING, COAST DEFENSE SITES, AND AN INTERDICTION POINT. THE RESULTS WERE NOT OBSERVED. FIFTEEN TO 20 ROUNDS OF INEFFECTIVE HOSTILE FIRE WERE RECEIVED. THE CHINESE SHIP, HUNG CHI 162, REMAINS AT THE HON LA ANCHORAGE. NO OFFLOADING OR LOGISTIC CRAFT ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED.

LAOS

SOME SHARP FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN THE NORTH ON OCTOBER 9. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE USED ARTILLERY AND TANKS TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S FORWARD POSITIONS ON THE SOUTHERN PLAINE DES JARRES. SEVERAL OF THESE POSITIONS WERE ABANDONED, BUT MOST WERE LATER REOCCUPIED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT UNITS.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT SIX PERSONS WERE KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED IN THE COMMUNIST AIR ATTACK ON BOUAM LONG, NORTH OF THE PLAINE. HOWITZER AMMUNITION AND FUEL STOCKS WERE DESTROYED, AND 71 DWELLINGS WERE EITHER DESTROYED OR DAMAGED.

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