

SITTO 38

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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APRIL 23, 1972

MORI/CDF
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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING CABLE SUMMARY

SOUTH VIETNAM SITUATION: ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT SVN REMAINED LIGHT WITH LITTLE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY. THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND ACTION IN THE QUANG TRI BATTLEFRONT. THE ENEMY CONTINUED ATTACKS AGAINST AN ARVN DIVISION SUPPORT BASE WITH 130-MM GUNS, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES. IN THE HIGHLANDS, THE ENEMY HAS INTERDICTED ROUTE 14 SOUTH OF KONTUM. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING IS IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE WHERE 74 ENEMY TROOPS WERE KILLED IN THREE CLASHES NEAR FBBS BASTOGNE AND BIRMINGHAM. ROK CAVALRY FORCES ARE CONTINUING THEIR EFFORTS TO REOPEN ROUTE 19. AN LOC WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS REPORTED. THE EXEMPLARY BEHAVIOR OF NVA/VC TROOPS IN THE LOC NINH AREA HAS DETERIORATED WITH RICE AND PRIVATE VEHICLES BEING CONFISCATED, PUBLIC TRIALS AND EXECUTIONS OF RF/PF MEMBERS, AND THE ARREST OF REMAINING GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN THE AREA. IN THE DELTA, ONLY SCATTERED SMALL-SCALE GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. (AN EXPANDED VERSION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.)

CYPRUS ARMS CONTROL: EMBASSY NICOSIA REPORTS THAT CYPRIOT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS HAS AGREED TO STRICT UN CONTROL OF THE CZECH ARMS ON THE ISLAND. ALL ARMS EXCEPT HIGH EXPLOSIVES WILL BE KEPT AT THE BASE CAMP OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. THE HIGH EXPLOSIVES WILL BE UNDER A DOUBLE LOCK ARRANGEMENT IN BUNKERS WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO UN INSPECTION. THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT MAKARIOS GENUINELY WANTS THE ARMS ISSUE SOLVED TO PREVENT THE TURKS FROM BLAMING HIM FOR DELAY OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND TO PUT HIM IN A BETTER POSITION TO RESIST GREEK DEMANDS THAT HE RESHUFFLE HIS GOVERNMENT AND FOLLOW ATHENS'S ADVICE ON CYPRIOT AFFAIRS.

LAOTIAN REACTION TO INDOCHINA SITUATION: LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUVA HAS REJECTED A GUN-CAMBODIAN REQUEST THAT LAOS ENTER INTO A JOINT CONDEMNATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE

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AGGRESSION AGAINST THE THREE COUNTRIES. HIS REASON FOR REJECTION WAS THAT THE WORLD ALREADY KNOWS THAT NVN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT ESCALATION OF THE WAR AND THEREFORE ANY JOINT STATEMENT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. HE TOLD HIS CABINET THAT ANOTHER PLG WHITE PAPER ON NVN INVOLVEMENT IN LAOS IS BEING READIED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 27TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE ALSO TOLD THE CABINET THAT NO PLG OFFICIALS ARE TO COMMENT ON THE RENEWED U.S. BOMBING OF NVN DUE TO THE LAOTIAN POLICY OF NEUTRALITY, BUT EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT THE U.S. HAD TAKEN SUCH ACTIONS TO COUNTER THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE.

APOLLO 16 CONTINUES SUCCESSFULLY: ASTRONAUTS YOUNG AND DUKE COMPLETED THE SECOND SEVEN-HOUR MOON EXPLORATION, CLIMBING A RECORD 750 FEET UP A LUNAR MOUNTAIN. THEY HAVE ONE MORE WALK OF FIVE HOURS DURATION PRIOR TO LIFT-OFF AT 8:36 P.M. TONIGHT FOR THEIR RETURN TRIP TO EARTH.

THE WASHINGTON POST

DAVID BRODER CLAIMS THAT A NEW POLL GIVES SENATOR MCGOVERN A 2 TO 1 EDGE OVER SENATORS MUSKIE AND HUMPHREY IN THE MASSACHUSETTS AREA. (A-1)

DON OBERDORFER OBSERVES THAT THE BATTLE FOR DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY CENTER WILL GO TO THE VOTERS WITH HUMPHREY PROBABLY DEALING A HEAVY -- PERHAPS A KNOCKOUT -- BLOW TO MUSKIE. (A-1)

THOUSANDS TURNED OUT IN SIX CITIES DESPITE BAD WEATHER TO PROTEST STEPPED UP U.S. BOMBING OF NVN, BUT MOST DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PEACEFUL. NEW YORK CITY AND LOS ANGELES HAD THE BIGGEST TURNOUTS, WITH 10,000 EACH. (A-3)

THE APOLLO 16 ASTRONAUTS HAVE FOUND VOLCANIC ROCK NEAR THEIR LANDING SITE DURING THEIR SECOND EXPLORATION OF THE LUNAR SURFACE. A THIRD WALK IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, BUT OF SHORTER DURATION THAN THE FIRST TWO. (A-8)

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY HAS REPEATED HIS CHARGES THAT U.S. AID PROGRAMS ARE BEING USED TO SUPPORT MILITARY AND PARAMILITARY EFFORTS IN LAOS. (A-19)

JOSIAH AUSPITZ'S COLUMN ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE REVEALS TWO CHANGES WHICH POINT UP THE GRAVITY OF HANOI'S MISCALCULATION IN THEIR

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CURRENT OFFENSIVE. THE FIRST IS THE PRESIDENT'S DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING, PLAYING THE USSR AGAINST THE PRC, AND THE SECOND BEING THE STEADY SHIFT IN THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN SVN AGAINST THE NVA/VC.

THE SUNDAY STAR

HENRY BRADSHAW NOTES FROM SAIGON THAT THE LOSS OF TWO FSBS NEAR KONTUM HAS CAUSED FEARS THAT THE COMMUNISTS COULD CUT SVN IN HALF. (A-1)

MIAMI BEACH MAYOR HALL SAYS THAT THE GOP IS PLANNING TO HOLD ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN THAT CITY ON AUGUST 19. (A-2)

THE 25TH CONVENTION OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION ARE LINED UP TO GIVE AN UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT TO SENATOR MCGOVERN FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. (A-5)

A STAR STAFF WRITER OBSERVES THAT NVN HAS GONE ON A TOTAL WAR FOOTING WHILE IN SVN WHERE THE SITUATION BECOMES MORE SERIOUS THE OFFENSIVE HAS HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE STYLE OF LIVING. (A-8)

MERVIN SIGALE STATES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS ON THE VERGE OF GIVING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID TO HAITI FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE PRESIDENT KENNEDY CUT IT OFF IN 1962. (A-15)

JEREMIAH O'LEARY NOTES THAT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS COMPLETED ITS ANNUAL TWO-WEEK "SPRING FUTILITY RITE" WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING ACCOMPLISHED AS IS USUAL. (A-18)

THE STAR'S LEAD EDITORIAL CALLS FOR REFORMS OF THE PRIMARY SYSTEM OF SCREENING CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WITH THE AIM OF ELIMINATING THE EXPENSE, TIME, AND POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT THAT RESULTS.

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