

CS3

041  
RCVD 0052 Z

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD

NSA review  
completed

APRIL 23, 1972 OSD Review  
Complete.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

SITTO 41

MORI-C03358586

INDOCHINA MILITARY SITUATION: IN MILITARY REGION 1, MODERATE MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE REGION, BUT NO MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS WERE REPORTED SINCE OUR LAST SUMMARY.

IN MILITARY REGION 2: THE COMMUNISTS BEGAN APPLYING HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARVN 22ND DIVISION AT TAN CANH, SOUTH OF DAK TO. TANK, ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE, TOGETHER WITH SAPPER ATTACKS, ARE BEING EMPLOYED. ENEMY TANKS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF DAK TO AND EAST OF FSB DELTA.

IN MILITARY REGION 3: THE ARVN FIELD COMMANDER REPORTS THAT HE CONSIDERS THE AN LOC SITUATION TO BE VERY ENCOURAGING. NO ENEMY TANKS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE LAST THREE DAYS AND HEAVY ARTILLERY IS NOW SILENT, WITH ONLY MORTARS AND B-40 ROCKETS BEING FIRED. IN RECENT ACTION, 60-80 ENEMY WERE KILLED BY THE AIRBORNE UNIT DEFENDING THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE TOWN. IN ADDITION, 89 ENEMY WERE KILLED NEAR THE WESTERN END OF AN LOC BY TACTICAL AIR ATTACKS. SEVERAL SMALL INFANTRY PROBES WERE ALSO REPORTED FROM THE NORTHEAST. TODAY WAS THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE DAY THAT HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENTER AN LOC! YESTERDAY VNAF HELOS EVACUATED OVER 60 ARVN WOUNDED. RESUPPLY ALSO CONTINUES AND THE GROUND COMMANDER NO LONGER CONSIDERS THE SUPPLY SITUATION TO BE A PROBLEM.

IN MILITARY REGION 4: ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS REMAIN AT THE SAME LEVEL. MAJOR INCIDENTS CONTINUED TO BE CENTERED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WHERE THE ENEMY CONDUCTED THREE GROUND ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS AND 13 MORTAR ATTACKS AND HARASSMENTS.

IN AIR ACTIVITY, EARLY THIS AFTERNOON 18 B-52 BOMBERS STRUCK THE THANH HOA POL FACILITIES AND TRANSSHIPMENT POINT. ALL AIRCRAFT RECOVERED SAFELY. INITIAL BDA REPORTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS TIME. BDA FROM YESTERDAY'S TACTICAL AIR STRIKES

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IN NORTH VIETNAM INDICATE THAT AT THE KHE PHAT AIRFIELD ONE MIG-17 AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED ON THE GROUND, ONE RUNWAY WAS CRATERED, ONE BUILDING DESTROYED AND ONE POSSIBLE CAMOUFLAGED HANGAR DAMAGED; THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND THREE SECONDARY FIRES WERE ALSO REPORTED. ELSEWHERE IN NORTH VIETNAM, REPORTS INDICATE THREE WATERBORNE LOGISTICS CRAFT DAMAGED, ONE TRUCK DESTROYED AND ONE DAMAGED, FIVE BUNKERS DESTROYED, 43 GUNS DAMAGED AND ONE ROAD SEGMENT CRATERED. IN ADDITION 28 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND ONE SECONDARY FIRE WERE OBSERVED.

IN FREEDOM TRAIN OPERATIONS, U.S. NAVAL UNITS STRUCK A RADAR SITE, AMMUNITION STORES AND COASTAL BATTERY JUST NORTH OF THE DMZ. THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS WERE OBSERVED ON THE RADAR SITE. IN A SECOND STRIKE, THE TASK UNIT ATTACKED A MILITARY STORAGE POINT AND A POL STORAGE SITE IN THE SAME AREA, AND AGAIN STRUCK THE SAME COASTAL BATTERY. MEANWHILE, THE DESTROYER USS STODDERT WAS HIT BY A SHORE BATTERY WHILE APPROACHING TO CONDUCT A STRIKE NEAR VINH. LIGHT DAMAGE WAS REPORTED, BUT THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL CASUALTIES.

THE SL-4 INFILTRATION TRAWLER, UNDER COVERT SURVEILLANCE BY THE USS SCULPIN, IS NOW LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 40 NAUTICAL MILES OFF THE COAST OF CAMBODIA, ABOUT 65 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF KOMPONG SOM. AT LAST REPORT, THE TRAWLER HAD REVERSED ITS COURSE, STEAMING AWAY FROM THE COAST AFTER BEING DEAD-IN-THE-WATER FOR AN HOUR. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE TRAWLER WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND ARE NOW EXFILTRATING THE AREA. FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO LAND THE TRAWLER'S CARGO AT OTHER POINTS ALONG THE CAMBODIAN OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE COASTS, HOWEVER, CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED. THE SL-3 TRAWLER, UNDER OVERT SURVEILLANCE BY U.S. NAVY PATROL AIRCRAFT SINCE YESTERDAY, IS APPARENTLY EN ROUTE TO THE PARACEL ISLANDS. SURVEILLANCE OF THIS TRAWLER IS SCHEDULED TO TERMINATE WHEN IT ANCHORS IN THE PARACELS.

WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, OPPONENTS OF CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT'S CONCILIATION TREATIES WITH RUSSIA AND POLAND WON A SWEEPING VICTORY IN THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG STATE ELECTIONS TODAY. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION WON 53 PERCENT OF THE VOTES IN A HEAVY POLL, COMPARED WITH 37.5 PERCENT FOR BRANDT'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND 8.9 PERCENT FOR THEIR FREE DEMOCRATIC (FDP) ALLIES, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL PROVISIONAL FINAL FIGURES ISSUED BY THE STATE RETURNING OFFICE.

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SADAT TO MOSCOW: ACCORDING TO AL AHRAM, PRESIDENT SADAT WILL FLY TO MOSCOW IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE NEWSPAPER SAID, "THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO STUDY THE STRATEGIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS." AL AHRAM DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN THE VISIT WOULD COMMENCE, BUT SAID THE TRIP WOULD LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS.

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