

009  
TOP SECRET  
SENSITIVE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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C133

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APRIL 20, 1972

MORI/CDF  
C03358591

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

VIETNAM SITUATION: ARVN FORCES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE OFFENSIVE INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM EXCEPT FOR THE AN LOC AREA OF MR 3 WHERE ENEMY FORCES CONTINUE TO APPLY HEAVY PRESSURE.

IN MILITARY REGION 1, GROUND COMBAT ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A MODERATE LEVEL. FRIENDLY UNITS HAVE REPORTEDLY KILLED 163 ENEMY WHILE INCURRING LIGHT CASUALTIES.

NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN MILITARY REGION 2. ARVN AND ROK FORCES CONTINUE THEIR ATTEMPTS TO REOPEN AN KHE PASS.

IN MILITARY REGION 3, AN LOC CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECTED TO HEAVY ATTACKS BY ENEMY GROUND AND TANK UNITS. CLEAR WEATHER HAS PERMITTED THE USE OF TACTICAL AIR AGAINST THE ENEMY. SOUTH OF AN LOC, AN ARVN AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY KILLED 42 ENEMY SOLDIERS YESTERDAY. FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS ONE KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED. FOUR CREW-SERVED WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED.

LATE INFORMATION REVEALS THAT THE ARVN 6TH AIRBORNE BATTALION, LOCATED JUST SOUTHEAST OF AN LOC, WAS NOT OVERRUN AS WAS REPORTED EARLIER. IT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION AS A FIGHTING UNIT AND PRESENTLY IS ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. CASUALTIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN REPORTED.

IN MILITARY REGION 4, ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA DECREASED. NO MAJOR ACTIONS WERE REPORTED.

U.S. NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT SHIPS OFF NORTH VIETNAM CONTINUED TO SHELL SAM SITES IN THE VINH AREA LAST NIGHT. NO U.S. SHIPS WERE DAMAGED BY HOSTILE COUNTER-BATTERY FIRE. OFF SOUTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY REGION 1, SUPPORT SHIPS REPORTED STRIKING ARTILLERY POSITIONS, TROOP CONCENTRATIONS, VEHICLES, AND STORAGE AREAS. GUN DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDES 35 STRUCTURES DESTROYED AND EIGHT SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

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DURING THE PERIOD 181701 TO 191700 EST, 22 USN AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE VINH RAILROAD YARD, MOTOR MAINTENANCE FACILITY, AND THE VINH AIRFIELD. NUMEROUS BUILDINGS AND RAILWAY CARS WERE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED; TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND 11 SECONDARY FIRES WERE NOTED.

IN OTHER ACTIVITY, DURING YESTERDAY'S SURFACE VESSEL ATTACK ON U.S. GUNFIRE SHIPS OPERATING OFF DONG HOI, NORTH VIETNAM, THE USS STERETT FIRED A SALVO OF TWO MISSILES AT AN INCOMING AIR TARGET WHICH WAS DESTROYED SIX MILES FROM THE SHIP. THE STERETT'S EVALUATION OF THE TARGET INDICATES THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN AN ANTISHIP CRUISE MISSILE FIRED FROM A PLATFORM IN THE GULF OF TONKIN.

DRV AND PRG STATEMENTS IN PARIS: THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS TO THE PARIS PEACE TALKS HAVE DELIVERED NOTES TO THE U.S. DELEGATION CALLING FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE STALLED TALKS. THE DRV NOTE CONDEMNED U.S. ACTS OF INTENSIFYING AND BROADENING THE WAR AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTED ALL THE "ARROGANT ALLEGATIONS" OF THE U.S. THE NOTE DEMANDED THAT THE U.S. "STOP THE BOMBING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE DRV AND THAT THE PARIS CONFERENCE MEET AGAIN AS USUAL" ON APRIL 27. THE PRG STATEMENT RELATED THAT THE PRG HAS OFTEN IN THE PAST DEMANDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION END ITS "CRIMINAL ACTS OF INTENSIFICATION OF THE WAR AND RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM AS USUAL." THE PRG NOTE ALSO CONDEMNED THE RECENT BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM AND U.S. ESCALATION OF THE WAR.

NVN PIPELINE IN DMZ: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE CONSTRUCTED A POL PIPELINE INTO THE DMZ. THE LINE ORIGINATES AT THE THU THU PETROLEUM STORAGE SITE NORTH OF BAT LAKE, ABOUT 25 MILES NORTH OF THE DMZ. THE NEW PIPELINE BRANCHES FROM THE MAIN POL TRUCK LINE, WHICH EXTENDS FROM VINH INTO THE LAOS PANHANDLE BEYOND MUONG NONG. CONSTRUCTION MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE LESSER VULNERABILITY OF A PIPELINE VIS-A-VIS OTHER TRANSPORTATION METHODS AND THE RELATIVE EASE OF REPAIR IF INTERDICTED. IT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE DELIVERY OF POL WITH A MINIMUM STORAGE BUILDUP ON THE RECEIVING END.

KOSYGIN HOPES FOR BETTER ATTITUDE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY: IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR LAST FRIDAY, SOVIET

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PREMIER KOSYGIN REMARKED THAT PROGRESS TOWARD A CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION IS TOO SLOW. HE ATTRIBUTED THE DELAY TO "SOME RELUCTANCE" ON THE PART OF THE U.S. AND THE UK, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "WHEN MR. NIXON COMES WE CAN PERSUADE HIM TO ADOPT A MORE FORTHRIGHT ATTITUDE."

MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS: POLITICAL SOURCES IN CAIRO TODAY STATED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL TRAVEL TO MOSCOW LATER THIS MONTH OR IN EARLY MAY FOR CRUCIAL MILITARY AND POLITICAL TALKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. THE SOURCES SAID SADAT WILL REQUEST FURTHER WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES FROM THE SOVIETS DURING HIS VISIT, EXPECTED TO LAST THREE TO FOUR DAYS. SADAT IS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO LIBYA, ALGERIA, AND TUNISIA UPON HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW.

MEANWHILE, ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN LEFT FOR WASHINGTON TODAY WHERE HE WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY ROGERS FOR TALKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IN OTHER ACTIVITY, PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT SHE WILL VISIT ROMANIA IN EARLY MAY.

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TROUBLE BOILING BETWEEN GREECE AND FRG: THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS DEMANDED THE RECALL OF THE WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE, ACCUSING HIM OF HAVING ORGANIZED THE ESCAPE ABROAD OF A GREEK POLITICAL PRISONER.

AMBASSADOR TASCA HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED PAPADOPOULOS AND PALAMAS THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT AWARE OF NOR INVOLVED IN THE ILLEGAL DEPARTURE OF MANGAKIS.

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