

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

019

243

OSD, NSA, DOS reviews
completed

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

APRIL 21, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

MORI/CDF
C03353023

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

VIETNAM SITUATION: GROUND COMBAT ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM APPEARS TO HAVE DIMINISHED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AN LOC AREA. ARVN FORCES CONTINUE TO INITIATE OFFENSIVE ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY REGIONS 1 AND 4.

IN MR 1: OFFENSIVE ACTIONS BY ARVN UNITS CONTINUE TO KEEP THE ENEMY OFF-BALANCE AND DISRUPT COMMUNIST PREPARATIONS. ELEMENTS OF A SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINE BATTALION ENGAGED AN ENEMY FORCE NEAR QUANG TRI. ENEMY LOSSES WERE 34 KILLED AND SEVEN WEAPONS SEIZED. TWO MARINES WERE WOUNDED.

IN MR 2: NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED. SCATTERED ATTACKS-BY-FIRE AND GROUND PROBES CONTINUE TO CHARACTERIZE THE ACTION.

IN MR 3: THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO APPLY PRESSURE TO AN LOC WITH ATTACKS-BY-FIRE WHICH HAVE INCREASED IN INTENSITY SINCE THE LAST REPORT. ARVN FORCES STILL HOLD THE MAJORITY OF THE TOWN AND CONTINUE TO BE HEAVILY SUPPORTED BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES.

IN MR 4: NO MAJOR CONTACTS WERE REPORTED AND THE OVERALL LEVEL OF GROUND COMBAT ACTIVITY REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME. REPORTS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY IS PREPARING FOR ATTACKS ON VI THANH, THE CAPITAL OF CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE.

IN AIR ACTIVITY: 244 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE FREEDOM TRAIN AREA DURING THE PERIOD 201701 - 211700 EST.

MEANWHILE, INTERCEPTED NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNICATIONS NOTED THE FOLLOWING DAMAGE CAUSED BY A U.S. NAVY AIR ATTACK IN THE VINH AREA AT MID-DAY YESTERDAY: TWO 57-MM GUNS DESTROYED; ONE SAM BATTALION PUT OUT OF COMMISSION; THE RUNWAY AT VINH AIRFIELD CRATERED AND RENDERED TEMPORARILY UNUSEABLE; THE RAILLINE DAMAGED; TWO BOATS DESTROYED; AND SEVERAL BUILDINGS DESTROYED OR DAMAGED.

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ASSESSMENT OF THE BOMB DAMAGE BY B-52 STRIKES IN THE THANH
HOA AREA IS NOT YET AVAILABLE.

POSSIBLE CONTACTS REGARDING U.S. PRISONERS: STATE HAS INFORMED
OUR CONSULATE IN HONG KONG THAT FORMER JUSTICE ARTHUR GOLDBERG
CONTACTED MARSHALL GREEN AND YOUR OFFICE RECENTLY TO DISCUSS AN
APPROACH TO HIM BY HARRY REASONER OF ABC-TV REGARDING A POSSIBLE
ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY FOR THE RELEASE OF U.S. POWS FROM NVN. AC-
CORDING TO GOLDBERG, REASONER WAS APPROACHED IN HONG KONG BY AN
INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING TO HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AN AMERICAN,
NON-GOVERNMENTAL, INTERMEDIARY OF STATUS WITH WHOM THE NVN COULD
DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF POWS. GOLDBERG'S NAME APPARENTLY WAS

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SUGGESTED, AND HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD REASONER THAT HE COULD PLAY A ROLE OF THIS KIND ONLY IF SANCTIONED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. GOLDBERG IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE CONTACT MAY BE SOMEWHAT QUESTIONABLE, BUT HOPES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTER. THEREFORE, STATE HAS ADVISED CONSUL HONG KONG TO CONTACT ABC'S REPRESENTATIVE THERE AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE APPROACH HOLDS ANY GENUINE CHANCE OF SECURING THE RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS.

IN ADDITION, AN APPROACH SIMILAR TO THE FOREGOING HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF PARKER PEN COMPANY BY A MAN CLAIMING TO BE AN "OBSERVER" AT THE PARIS TALKS.

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