

NSA review completed

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

July 1, 1972
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: Situation in Vietnam

Operation Lamson 72 continues on schedule in Quang Tri Province as ARVN forces continue to make progress. Advancing elements of the Airborne and Marine Divisions consolidated their positions and prepared for further attacks toward Quang Tri City. Yesterday, 97 enemy were killed by the Marines in two separate engagements while other scattered contacts accounted for 62 enemy killed. Marine casualties were light.

Activity in the Airborne Division area has been somewhat reduced. Yesterday over 6 tons of ammunition, including 100 rounds of 130 mm, were destroyed along with 5 tanks reported knocked out by VNAF.

In the 1st Division area, the defenders of Fire Support Base Checkmate were forced to withdraw following an enemy artillery and ground attack. ARVN elements are attempting to retake Checkmate, but as of this reporting time it is still in enemy hands. Moderate attacks continue in the Hue area.

In Military Region 2, Kontum City is quiet. Yesterday afternoon a 30 truck convoy succeeded in completing a move through the Kontum Pass from Pleiku to Kontum City. This marks the first convoy through the Pass since April 22. Light contacts have been reported in the Pass area, however, Route 14 is reported cleared.

Sporadic enemy mortar and artillery fire is reported along Route 13 in Military Region 3, while contacts south of An Loc resulted in 43 enemy killed. Elements at Song Be report an early morning artillery and ground attack but late reports indicate that the situation is easing.

U.S. aircraft flew 563 sorties in Vietnam on 1 July. Of these, 225 were directed against targets over North Vietnam. In addition, 9 B-52 strikes were flown over North Vietnam.

ARMY, OSD, & DOS
Reviews Completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

2

Military Region 1

The South Vietnamese counteroffensive, Operation Lamson 72, continues to progress on schedule against moderate enemy resistance. The Marine and Airborne units have advanced to a point approximately five miles southeast of Quang Tri City.

-- Attacking ARVN elements are maintaining continuous pressure on enemy forces by employing a series of coordinated helicopter-borne assaults which are designed to envelope enemy forces and pre-empt enemy flanking maneuvers.

-- Regional Force elements following up behind the Marine units have found and destroyed ten tons of munitions.

-- The Airborne Division operating to the west of Route 1 is encountering moderate enemy resistance but reduced attacks by fire.

-- Southwest of Hue, enemy forces attacked FSB Checkmate following an artillery attack on the outpost. ARVN defenders sustained 15 killed and 34 wounded and were forced to withdraw to FSB Bastogne. Two companies of ARVN infantry are attempting to retake the outpost.

-- Intercepted enemy communications are revealing enemy concern over the allied offensive. Instructions have been issued to relocate some enemy units farther north and to destroy weapons in place to preclude their being captured if they cannot be moved.

Military Region 2

A low level of activity continues around Kontum City.

-- To the south, a 30 vehicle convoy yesterday negotiated Route 14 and the Kontum Pass between Pleiku and Kontum City without incident. Route 14 is now considered clear.

-- Also, small truck convoys have been using the by-pass route to get to FSB 41A and 42. In addition a 114 truck convoy arrived in Pleiku from the coastal town of Qui Nhon via Route 19.

-- ARVN elements operating in the Chu Pao mountain area found 109 enemy bodies killed by air strikes.

-- ROK forces have assumed security responsibility for Route 19 from An Khe Pass to Mang Yang Pass releasing an ARVN regiment for deployment to Binh Dinh Province.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

3

Military Region 3

An Loc is quiet, but the ARVN 33rd Regiment operating south of An Loc along Route 13 remained in contact with the enemy all day yesterday and again last night.

-- Fighting has increased in coastal Phouc Tuy Province with ARVN forces engaging elements of the 274th VC Regiment near Dat Do, and killing over 60 enemy while sustaining light casualties.

-- In Phuoc Long Province ARVN elements at Song Be reported enemy shelling and a ground attack early this morning. The ammunition dump was partially destroyed and enemy elements were reported near the airfield. ARVN forces were counterattacking to drive off the enemy and the latest reports indicate that the situation is easing.

Military Region 4

Enemy initiated activity has been light, continuing the trend of the past week. Most actions continue to consist of mortar fire.

-- Friendly initiated actions continue to be centered around the Kien Phong/Kien Tuong Province area. The ARVN 7th Division's sweep operation continues against light enemy resistance.

US Air and Naval Operations

The following strike sorties were flown on July 1:

	<u>MR-1</u>	<u>MR-2</u>	<u>MR-3</u>	<u>MR-4</u>	<u>NVN</u>	<u>Total</u>
TacAir US	220	32	56	30	225	563
TacAir VNAF	53	41	54	51	0	199
ARC LIGHT	76	4	0	12	9	105*

*There were 4 strikes flown in Cambodia.

Yesterday in Linebacker Operations over North Vietnam, all but one scheduled sortie were diverted to armed reconnaissance missions due to bad weather over the target areas. The Gia Hoa POL and Vinh Wood Products Plant were struck resulting in five secondary explosions at the POL site while results were not observed at the Vinh plant.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

4

The following significant bomb damage assessments are reported as a result of the armed reconnaissance strikes: 10 bridges, 24 buildings, 36 waterborne logistic craft, 10 trucks, 2 warehouses, a POL tank and pumping station destroyed. Several pieces of SAM related equipment were also destroyed including 2 vans, 5 cannisters, 1 transporter and 3 SAM sites.

U.S. TacAir strikes flown over South Vietnam resulted in the destruction of 110 structures, 2 tanks, 18 trucks and 3 bridges. In addition 78 secondary fires and 225 secondary explosions were observed.

U.S. aircraft flew 225 strike sorties in North Vietnam. Bad weather again hampered air operations and forced strikes on planned targets to be diverted to secondary targets near Vinh, to armed reconnaissance missions, or to be canceled. The Yen Dung petroleum storage area north of Vinh was struck by six USN aircraft. Results were not observed due to smoke and dust.

U.S. naval ships continue to maintain surveillance of the Chinese merchantman anchored at Hon La Island. Waterborne logistic craft were interdicted in the vicinity and harassment and interdiction fire continues to disrupt North Vietnamese supply and unloading efforts in the area.

In South Vietnam over 4,000 rounds of naval fire were expended in area preparation and harassment and interdiction fire in support of Operation Lamson 72.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

5

Political/Diplomatic

French Comments on U.S. War Effort in Vietnam

A French military officer at NATO has told us that reports from the French representative in Hanoi in May indicated that the North Vietnamese were succeeding in their offensive in the South. In early June, however, the emphasis shifted to the U.S. bombing effort which is described as having an increasing impact. He reported that civilian moral was deteriorating and that as far as the people were concerned, they would like to see the war end now.

The officer remarked that in his conversations with French military colleagues in Paris and elsewhere, the prevailing view is that the U.S. war policy is correct and will succeed, if we persist and do not stop prematurely. He expressed an understanding of the problem of domestic opposition to the war in the U.S., remarking that the French faced that same problem in the '50's.

July 4 Greetings from President Thieu

A letter is being forwarded to you from President Thieu extending Independence Day congratulations and expressing the appreciation of the Vietnamese people for the assistance of the American people in the struggle against Communist aggression.

Reported Sino-Soviet Agreement on Supplying POL to Hanoi

The Canadian ICC delegate from Vietnam was recently told by his Polish colleague that Peking and Moscow had agreed on a plan to keep POL supplies flowing to North Vietnam. Under this plan, the Soviets would provide the PRC with petroleum products, presumably in North China, and the Chinese in turn would provide equivalent quantities to the DRV from their own stocks in South China. (We cannot estimate whether such speculation is valid since nearly all of China's own petroleum sources are in North China.)

Hanoi Comments on Your June 30 Press Conference

Hanoi's VNA service on June 30 labeled your announcement of our return to the Paris Talks "bombastic" and charged that you immediately set the condition for this new decision by saying that you "assumed" that North Vietnam is ready to "negotiate in a constructive and serious way." VNA went on to charge that despite the "disastrous military defeat" in Indochina and "after making extensive and futile trips abroad" your stand still remains

TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

6

"intact," and you continue your attempt to "negotiate from strength." VNA criticized you for ignoring Hanoi's "seven-point proposal" while "talking big about the so-called progress towards ending the war and ending U.S. involvement in Vietnam." With respect to the troop withdrawal announcement, VNA said that withdrawal rate is now the smallest monthly rate since March 1969. It stated that you "kept mum about the time limit for the pullout of the 39,000 remaining troops after September 1." VNA claimed that the additional 10,000 men to be withdrawn will, "as was the case of those withdrawn in previous months," not be brought home, but sent to Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries "where they would be re-introduced into Vietnam if necessary." VNA further castigated you for allegedly keeping Thieu in power and for resorting to the "shop worn slander of the DRV seeking to impose on South Vietnam a Communist regime." VNA noted that at your press conference "many journalists put Nixon in a fix when they questioned him about ordering the attacks on the DRV and the mining of her ports and especially the bombing of the dikes."

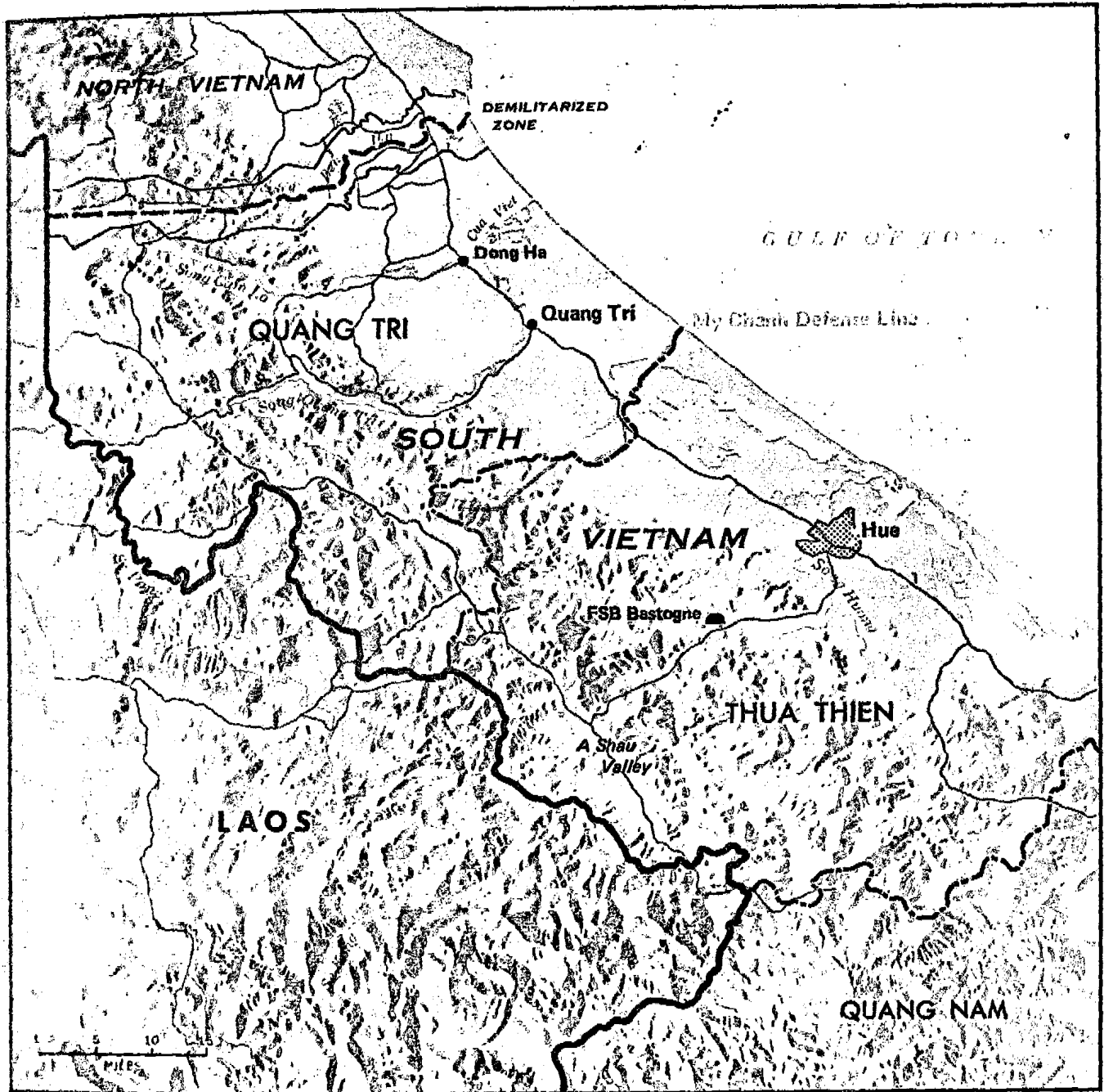
Soviets Say Hanoi's Negotiating Position Is Unchanged

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official on June 22 informed the French that the North Vietnamese had told Podgorny they were willing to resume the Paris Talks, but would maintain their former negotiating position. The official commented that as you appeared almost certain to be re-elected, it was hard to understand why the North Vietnamese refused to negotiate seriously at this time.

French Representative in Hanoi Skeptical about Diplomats' Trip to View Bombed Dikes

French representative in Hanoi, Susini, reported he had accompanied various eastern European diplomats to view the dikes which had allegedly been bombed by American aircraft. According to Susini, the group was taken by moonlight to two sites. One of the sites appeared to have been bombed but an eastern European diplomat stated that an anti-aircraft unit had recently been stationed there. The other dike had cracks but there was no sign of bombing, and Susini stated that he had serious doubts regarding the North Vietnamese allegations.

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD



553304 7-72