

MEMORANDUM
NSA review completed

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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June 27, 1972

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DOS, ARMY and JCS
reviews completed.

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

In northern Military Region 1 enemy pressure against Hue's defense increased while in An Loc the enemy fired 600 rounds of mixed caliber at friendly units. Elsewhere in South Vietnam only light combat activity was reported.

In northern Military Region 1 the enemy stepped up pressure against Hue's defenses with moderate to heavy shelling attacks against Marine, Airborne and First Division units. Shelling attacks against Airborne positions near Camp Evans and Fire Support Base Jack resulted in one howitzer destroyed, ten damaged while over 2,500 rounds of artillery ammunition were also destroyed.

In Military Region 2 combat activity was light with only small contacts and negligible results reported in the area of Kontum City and the Kontum Pass.

In Military Region 3 the enemy increased its shelling of An Loc as over 600 rounds of mixed caliber fell on units in and around the city. Little progress was reported in the Route 13 clearing operation.

In Military Region 4 activity continued at a low level with light contacts reported in the Elephant's Foot area of Kien Tuong Province.

In air operations, four US Air Force F-4's were lost to enemy fire near Hanoi last night (three by MIG's and one by SAM missile). A total of 462 US tactical sorties were flown throughout Vietnam with 258 strikes against the north. One hundred two B-52 sorties were concentrated against targets in Military Region 1. Principal targets over North Vietnam consisted of the Bac Mai airfield and the Hanoi vehicle repair facility near Hanoi. Results were not observed due to smoke.

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Military Region 1

In northern Military Region 1 enemy pressure increased throughout the sector as moderate to heavy shelling attacks were reported against Marine, Airborne and First Division positions.

-- In the Marine area of operations, ground contacts were reported as light but heavy artillery attacks occurred in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Nancy with only minor friendly casualties.

-- Eleven shelling attacks were reported against Airborne positions. Five hundred rounds were fired at an Airborne element south of Fire Support Base Nancy and in shelling attacks against Camp Evans and Fire Support Base Jack, one howitzer was destroyed, ten damaged and 2,500 rounds of ammunition also destroyed. One US Cobra helicopter was downed in the Airborne area.

-- Enemy pressure against the First Division area also increased with 15 artillery and mortar attacks against positions southwest of Hue. Fire Support Base Checkmate was hardest hit, accounting for 400 rounds and two ground attacks which were repulsed with light ARVN casualties.

-- The enemy continues to move troops and equipment forward to the My Chanh defense line north of Hue.

Military Region 2

In Military Region 2 combat activity continued to be light.

-- Sporadic enemy attacks continued against several government positions around Phu My District town in coastal Binh Dinh Province. ARVN losses have been light.

-- Activity in the Kontum City area remains light. In the Kontum Pass clearing operation, ARVN forces continue to encounter stiff enemy resistance.

-- In Military Region 2 the population exodus appears to have either halted or reversed itself. Nearly 85 percent of the pre-invasion population of Pleiku has returned to that city.

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Military Region 3

In Military Region 3 at An Loc there was an increase in shelling attacks as over 600 rounds of mixed caliber fell on units in and around the city.

-- Near An Loc, friendly forces along Route 13 reported only light enemy attacks by fire and several small ground contacts; however, enemy elements continue to block the highway at several points.

-- Small unit contacts of short duration were also reported in Phuoc Tuy Province, resulting in minor friendly casualties.

-- All other areas of the Region remained quiet.

-- In an engagement four kilometers southwest of An Loc, 50 enemy were killed by tactical air while friendly casualties were five killed and 33 wounded.

Military Region 4

In Military Region 4 ground activity continued at a low level with no significant engagements reported.

-- Several light contacts were reported in An Xuyen Province.

-- In the Elephant's Foot area of Kien Tuong Province, friendly units killed 23 enemy with only light ARVN losses.

Laos

In operation "Black Lion" three fresh Lao Army battalions plus some artillery and heavy weapons were moved into the provincial capital of Khong Sedone in the face of continuing persistent enemy shelling.

Cambodia

No significant activity was reported in Cambodia.

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US Air and Naval Operations

The following air strikes were flown on June 27:

	<u>MR-1</u>	<u>MR-2</u>	<u>MR-3</u>	<u>MR-4</u>	<u>NVN</u>	<u>Total</u>
TacAir US	176	2	26	0	258	462
TacAir VNAF	48	30	38	16	0	102
ARC LIGHT	102	0	0	0	0	102

-- In air activity near Hanoi last night, four USAF F-4's were lost. Three were downed by MIG's and one was hit by a SAM missile.

-- Sixteen USAF F-4's struck the Hanoi vehicle repair facility and the Bac Mai airfield near Hanoi last night. Results were not observed due to smoke. Another 101 aircraft flew armed reconnaissance missions in southern North Vietnam.

-- USN aircraft flew 145 strike sorties last night against various targets. Bomb damage assessment is not yet available.

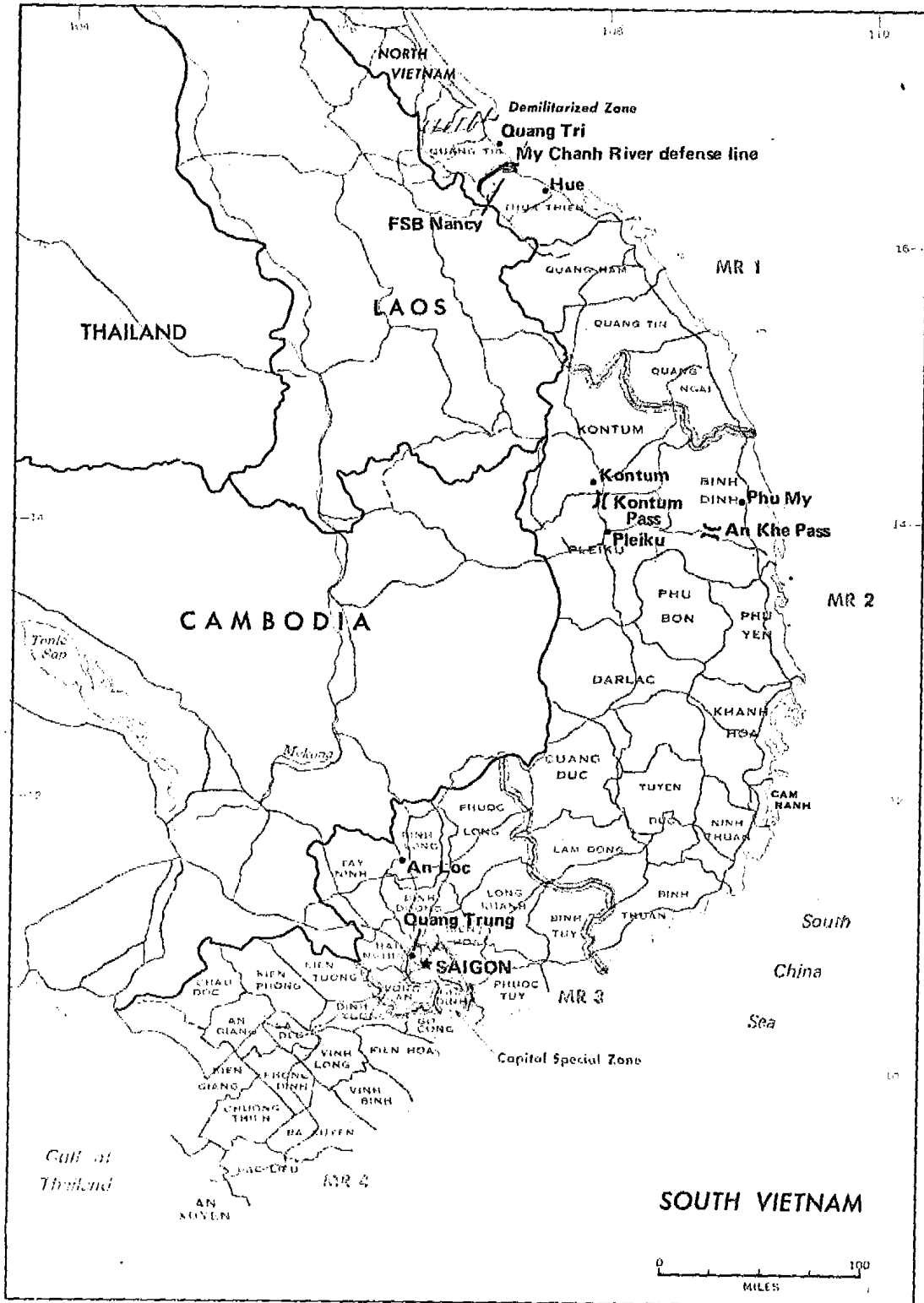
-- Updated bomb damage assessment of strikes conducted on June 24 against the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex north of Hanoi show that the open hearth furnace was destroyed. Additionally, two warehouses were destroyed and four more were damaged.

-- The number of mines/destructors placed in North Vietnamese harbors and coastal waterways by US aircraft now total 4,640.

-- As of June 24th, the northeast rail line between North Vietnam and the PRC was inoperable south of the Sino-North Vietnamese border.

-- In another development, pilots of two reconnaissance aircraft report that they were fired at on two occasions today by a Chinese freighter anchored near Hon Nieu Island; the aircraft were not hit. This is the second time in two weeks that a Chinese ship has fired on US aircraft overflying the anchorages. Chinese freighters of this class are generally armed with twin 37mm guns forward, quad 37mm guns in the aft section, and one 50 caliber machine gun on the bridge.

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