

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SENSITIVE~~

~~CONTAINS CODE WORDS~~

OO WTE22  
DE WTE 3086 2271615

O 141610Z AUG 72  
FM SITUATION ROOM  
TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WK27143

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE  
CONTAINS CODEWORD

AUGUST 14, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

MORI PER  
C03353188

VIETNAM MILITARY SITUATION: IN NORTHERN SOUTH VIETNAM, ACTIVITY REMAINS AT A MODERATE LEVEL IN THE QUANG TRI CITY AREA AS SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINE AND AIRBORNE FORCES PRESS THEIR OFFENSIVE. THERE WERE 16 ATTACKS-BY-FIRE TOTALING OVER 1,000 ROUNDS, MOST OF WHICH WERE TARGETED AGAINST MARINE POSITIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS AREA, 160-MM MORTAR ROUNDS WERE NOTED IN INCOMING FIRE. ONE ENEMY REPORT HAS REVEALED THAT FRIENDLY OPERATIONS ARE DISRUPTING COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES WEST OF FIRE SUPPORT BASE NANCY. AN UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENT OF THE NVA 304TH DIVISION RECENTLY NOTED: "THE ENEMY WAS SUCCESSFUL AT TWO FRONTS. WE ARE BEING BUTCHERED."

THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS REPORTED IN MILITARY REGIONS 2 OR 4 SINCE OUR LAST REPORT.

IN MILITARY REGION 3, ROUTE 13 SOUTH OF AN LOC IS OPEN INTERMITTANTLY DUE TO ENEMY SNIPER FIRE. SOME CONVOY TRAFFIC HAS MADE ITS WAY UP ROUTE 13, BUT NOTHING IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS.

ENEMY LOGISTIC PROBLEMS:

THAT ENEMY LOGISTICS UNITS CONTINUE TO COMPLAIN OF FUEL SHORTAGES. A LOGISTICS ELEMENT IN SOUTHERN LAOS RECENTLY STATED THAT A GASOLINE SHORTAGE WAS HAMPERING OPERATIONS.

THAT TRUCKS OPERATING WEST OF HUE WERE UNABLE TO MOVE DUE TO SHORTAGES OF GASOLINE. ENEMY COMPLAINTS OF INADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLIES ARE BEING NOTED WITH INCREASED FREQUENCY. IN CERTAIN AREAS,

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THE PROBLEM HAS EVEN CAUSED VARIOUS LOGISTIC ELEMENTS TO QUARREL AMONG THEMSELVES FOR AVAILABLE STOCKS. DIA BELIEVES THAT THE SHORTAGES ARE LIKELY THE RESULT OF DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS WHICH

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HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY DETERIORATING WEATHER CONDITIONS AS WELL AS THE ALLIED AIR EFFORT. THE ENEMY'S LOGISTICS SYSTEM ALONG THE COAST OF THE SOUTHERN NVN PANHANDLE AND IN EASTERN MILITARY REGION 1 SHOULD DETERIORATE FURTHER AS WEATHER CONDITIONS WORSEN OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DIA NSA & OSD review(s)  
completed.

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POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED AAA WEAPON IN DMZ AREA: THERE ARE TENUOUS INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIET ZSU-23-4 AAA SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO FORWARD COMBAT AREAS. THE TRACKED 23-MM WEAPON WAS FIRST NOTED IN INDOCHINA IN JULY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HANOI AREA. RADAR SIGNALS BELIEVED TO POSSIBLY BE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ZSU-23-4 HAVE BEEN NOTED EMANATING FROM THE EASTERN DMZ. CONFIRMATION OF THE ZSU-23-4'S DEPLOYMENT NEAR THE DMZ WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT THREAT THERE TO ALL AIRCRAFT FLYING BELOW 10,000 FEET.

CLARK STATEMENT ON HIS TRIP TO NORTH VIETNAM: ON HIS RETURN FROM NORTH VIETNAM SUNDAY NIGHT, RAMSEY CLARK SAID AMERICAN PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED WHEN THE "MURDEROUS BOMBING" STOPPED AND WHEN U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR ENDED. AFTER TALKS WITH HIGH OFFICIALS IN HANOI, HE SAID HE HAD "VERBAL AND WRITTEN" ASSURANCES THAT THE POWS WOULD BE RELEASED. HE DESCRIBED THEIR TREATMENT AS "HUMANE," PROMISING FURTHER DETAILS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1330 EDT TODAY. CLARK ALSO SAID HE HAD SEEN EXTENSIVE BOMB DAMAGE TO HOSPITALS, APARTMENTS, VILLAGES, DIKES, AND SLICES, ADDING THAT SUCH BOMBING WAS "WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION NO MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE AND PURPOSE."

PLANS FOR OPENING JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PEKING: ACCORDING TO THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IT HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING AN EMBASSY IN PEKING, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS JANUARY 1, 1973. IT EXPECTS AN AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE PRC ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF TANAKA'S VISIT TO CHINA. IF AN EMBASSY IS ESTABLISHED, THE PRC WILL OPEN AN EMBASSY IN TOKYO AT THE SAME TIME. CONSULTATIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED FOR THE MUTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATES GENERAL.

JAPAN HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN TAIPEI AND ITS CONSULATES GENERAL IN TAIPEI AND TAKAO. NATIONALIST CHINA IS EXPECTED TO CLOSE ITS EMBASSY IN TOKYO AND ITS CONSULATES GENERAL IN TOKYO, YOKOHAMA, AND FUKUOKA.

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