

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
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June 28, 1972

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

South Vietnamese Marine and Airborne units have launched an offensive to regain Quang Tri Province.

The Marine division, reinforced with armored cavalry elements, has attacked toward the north. Thus far they have met light resistance. The Airborne division attacked to the northwest and gained almost immediate contact with the enemy resulting in 164 enemy killed. US and VNAF TacAir and US naval gunfire are supporting the attack. One reinforced ARVN division remains behind to defend Hue.

In Military Region 2, activity was at a low level with no significant contacts reported around Kontum City. Some progress was reported in the Kontum Pass clearing operation.

In Military Region 3, ground combat was at a low level around An Loc. To the south of An Loc along Route 13, ARVN units report killing 259 enemy troops over a 24-hour period ending yesterday morning while sustaining light casualties.

In Military Region 4, no significant combat actions or major changes were reported.

A total of 503 US TacAir sorties were flown, 224 of which were directed against targets in North Vietnam. NSA, ARMY, NAVY, USAF, & OSD B-52 sorties, all flown against targets in Military Region 1. reviews completed

Military Region 1

In northern Military Region 1, ARVN initiated operation Lamson 72 this morning with the objective of regaining control of Quang Tri Province.

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-2-

Marines attacked northwest with one division , reinforced with armored cavalry elements, leaving one division (ARVN 1st) to defend Hue. The Marine division along the coast began its attack over land after cover and deception maneuvers at sea yesterday. The Marines have met light resistance so far. The Airborne division attacked northwest in a zone extending from the vicinity of Route 1 to high ground on the west. Airborne elements made immediate contacts and have reported 164 enemy killed and 73 weapons captured, including five 37mm guns. Friendly casualties were five killed and 41 wounded. US and VNAF TacAir and US Naval gunfire are supporting the attack.

-- Enemy attacks by fire were at a reduced level along the My Chanh defense line.

-- Near Fire Support Base Nancy, three enemy tanks were destroyed and another was captured, 53 enemy soldiers were killed.

-- In other activity, [REDACTED] 25X1
that enemy units north of the My Chanh River are experiencing morale and desertion problems.

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the enemy anticipated South Vietnamese attacks into Quang Tri Province.

-- Southwest of Hue, activity continued at an increased level as enemy units launched five major shelling attacks and two ground probes resulting in 85 enemy and 11 ARVN killed.

Military Region 2

Ground combat activity was at a low level in the region yesterday.

-- Contact continues to be light around Kontum City and some progress was reported in the Kontum Pass clearing operation.

Military Region 3

Enemy-initiated activity continued at a low level in Military Region 3.

-- Enemy shelling of An Loc decreased as friendly units reported only 170 rounds. One ground action resulted in 40 enemy and six ARVN killed.

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
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-3-

-- South of An Loc on Route 13, friendly forces with artillery and tactical air support have killed 259 enemy on June 26-27 while taking very light casualties.

-- Elsewhere in the region no significant activity was reported.

Military Region 4

Activity continued to be light and no significant actions were reported.

-- In Military Region 4, intelligence indicates that enemy forces continue to plan attacks on population centers in the southern Delta, specifically, Chuong Thien and Phong Dinh Provinces, including Can Tho City. The overall strategy is to maneuver main force units into position to attack the population centers, spread ARVN units as thin as possible, and deny ARVN the opportunity to organize a concerted resistance. Attacks will not be coordinated and no attempt will be made to hold fixed objectives. The primary objective is to force the residents to flee to rural areas where they can be controlled by Viet Cong/NVA forces.

US Air and Naval Activity

The following sorties were flown June 28:

	<u>MR-1</u>	<u>MR-2</u>	<u>MR-3</u>	<u>MR-4</u>	<u>NVN</u>	<u>Total</u>
TacAir US	132	29	88	30	224	503
TacAir VNAF	54	20	47	26	0	147
ARC LIGHT	101	0	0	0	0	101

-- Forty USAF F-4's were targeted against the Phuc Yen and Kep airfields. Results of these attacks are not yet available. An additional 62 aircraft are to carry out armed reconnaissance missions in southern North Vietnam.

-- A total of 122 USN aircraft flew strike sorties against the Cap Mai AAA repair/storage facility, the Da Mon Toi transshipment point and performed armed reconnaissance in the central and northeast sections of the country.

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-4-

-- Linebacker operations over North Vietnam yesterday resulted in 13 trucks, one gun, and ten boats destroyed or damaged. There were 43 secondary explosions and 53 secondary fires.

-- Over South Vietnam yesterday, air activity destroyed or damaged 31 trucks, and eight guns and caused 127 secondary fires and 96 secondary explosions.

-- [] photography [] has revealed that the North Vietnamese are rapidly completing their petroleum pipeline link with China. Some 41 additional miles of pipeline have been constructed since June 14 between Dong Dang and Kep, where it joins the line extending north from Hai Duong. When the new system is fully operational, petroleum supplies unloaded at the recently expanded Ping-hsiang petroleum storage area in China will flow directly into North Vietnam. This new system will thus give the North Vietnamese a complete pipeline link from China through North Vietnam to the DMZ and southern Laos. 25X1

-- Photographs of the Viet Tri thermal power plant and the adjacent paper combine, hit by eight USAF F-4's on June 25, show extensive damage. The power plant's boiler house and control building were damaged. The paper combine's boiler house was destroyed and its warehouses were damaged. One of the first targets in the current campaign was the Hai Duong railroad yard, which was heavily damaged when hit in early May. Photographs show that there has been no attempt to repair this transshipment point along the Hanoi-Haiphong rail line. The North Vietnamese have chosen instead to expend their major repair efforts on the northeast rail line.

Political/Diplomatic

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-5-

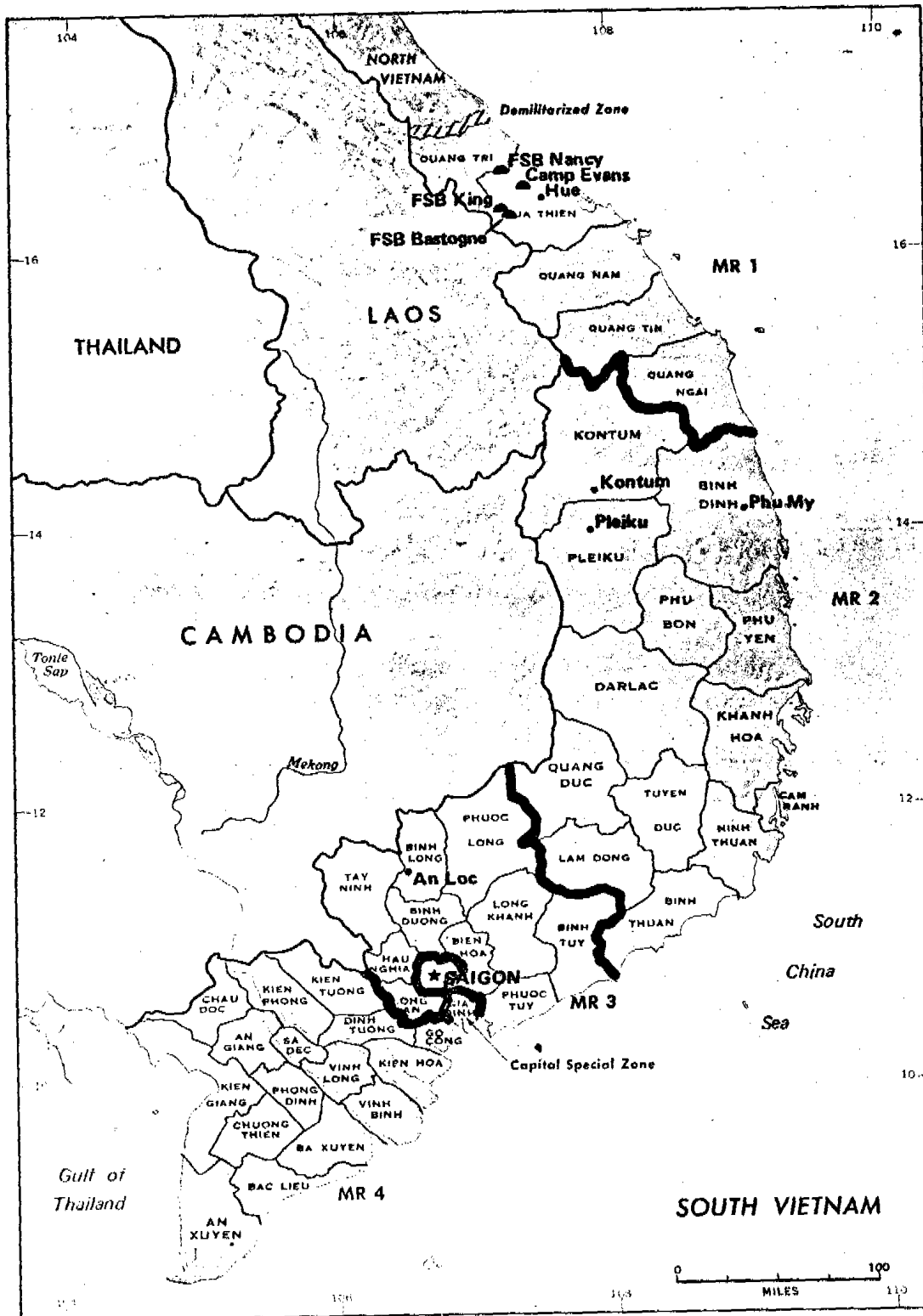
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President Thieu Addresses Province Officials

In remarks to a meeting of provincial officials on June 24, President Thieu repeated that the period from now to the end of the year will be one of the most challenging and critical ever faced in Vietnam. He predicted that the Communists would throw in all of their forces in a new effort to gain additional territory.

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