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INFORMATION

MAR 18 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Deteriorating Situation in Laos

CIA has sent a summary report on Vang Pao's critical position in the face of Communist pressure against his base area of Sam Thong / Long Tieng (Tab A).

The report makes these points:

-- Site 72, only 14 km. from Long Tieng, was expected to fall on Tuesday. (It has subsequently fallen.) Meo refugees are beginning to move out of the Long Tieng area.

-- Sam Thong (second most important Meo base) is expected to fall, and all American personnel have been evacuated.

25X1

[Redacted]

25X6

[Redacted]

25X1

25X6

25X6

-- Vang Pao has asked for more Lao troops. [Redacted] moving three guerrilla battalions up from South Laos. The Laotian Commander-in-Chief has approved the dispatch of Lao Army units, but it remains to be seen whether the regional military commanders will agree.

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25X1

-- Vang Pao's plan is to establish a new rallying point south of Long Tieng, and the three guerrilla units being moved in will be used to establish defensive positions in that area.

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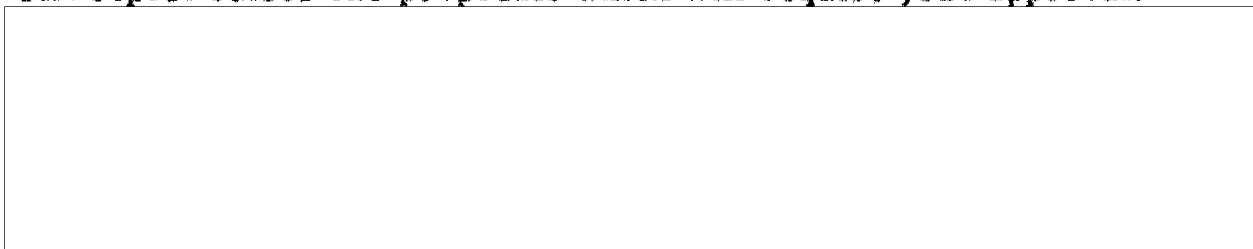
DOS, NSS reviews completed.

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The CIA report raises two proposals which will require your approval:



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-- Vang Pao has asked for B-52 strikes, since tactical air is being hampered by unusual smoke and haze.

The Interagency Ad Hoc Group on Laos was meeting as of Tuesday afternoon to formulate recommendations on these proposals. So far, however, we do not have specific proposals from the field as to what is required.

Ambassador Godley has informed State that the Seventh Air Force has promised maximum air support in the next few days. He makes clear that other guerrilla units will be moved toward Long Tieng as they disengage from current operations, in addition to the three companies which will move on Wednesday. This is, however, not likely to be enough to contain the Communist advance, and Godley clearly expects the fall of Long Tieng. He says that they are considering whether to support the removal of the Meo refugees to a new homeland in Sayaboury Province, west of the Mekong. He points out that at this stage it is probably more important for the RLG to insure the safe withdrawal of the Meo so that they may regroup and avoid a rout, rather than to allow them to be decimated fighting for possession of their traditional territory.

Atts

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JHH:LG:pmh 3/17/70

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

17 MAR 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

The Secretary of State

The Secretary of Defense

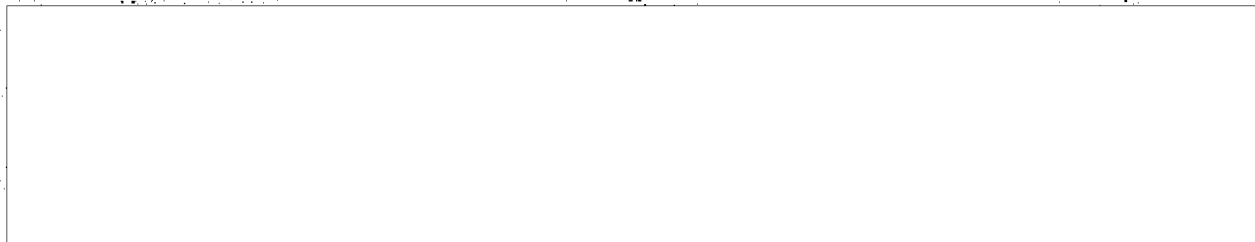
The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT:

Situation in Sam Thong/Long Tieng Area
in Laos (17 March 1937 hours Laos Time)
and Contingency Planning

1. The CIA Station Chief visited Long Tieng on 17 March to consult with General Vang Pao. They discussed the current military situation, General Vang Pao's deployment of troops in the Sam Thong/Long Tieng area and Vang Pao's plans for the defense of Long Tieng area. 25X1

2. Vang Pao considers the situation critical. Key Meo leaders began evacuating their families from Long Tieng on 17 March. Vang Pao expects the North Vietnamese troops to overrun the Tha Tham Bleung (Site 72) area today. Site 72 is 14 kilometers northeast of Long Tieng. Other reports place two NVA companies at a point four kilometers from Sam Thong.



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[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

25X6

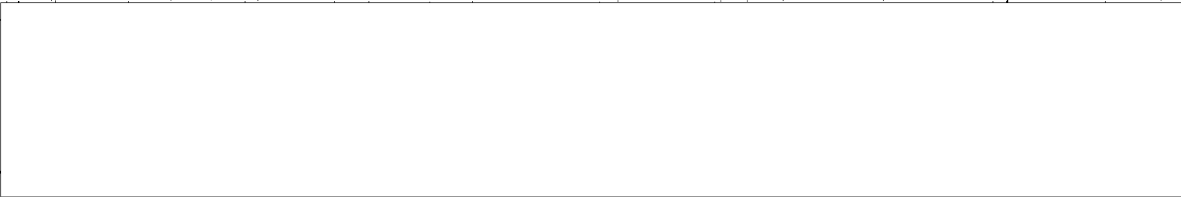
25X6

6. General Vang Pao asked for B-52 strikes. He stressed that the heavy haze and smoke, which was the worst he could recall, has prevented TACAIR from being effective. The Station Chief agreed to discuss Vang Pao's request with Ambassador Godley.

[Redacted]

25X1

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25X1

8. Station Chief comments that if Long Tieng is overrun, Vang Pao plans to evacuate the area and establish a rallying point south of Long Tieng. [redacted] from other areas would be used to help establish these new defensive positions.

25X1

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Karamessines'.

Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans

PRIORITY

ACTION

SECRET

March 17, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: Deteriorating Situation in Laos

I believe that you will want to pass to the President the CIA memorandum on Laos which was sent to you today.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

Att.

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JHH:pmh 3/17/70