



~~SENSITIVE~~  
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

*JUL*  
*552*

CTS-WK-RA1433

6 March 1969

THE JOINT STAFF  
JCS REVIEWED 05-Oct-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

REFER TO DOS

REFER TO OSD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: ARC LIGHT Strikes (U)

DOS REVIEWED 12-Nov-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

1. At about 1200 noon today, I discussed the proposed special ARC LIGHT strikes with Colonel Al Haig in his office at the White House.

2. I informed Al that a message went last night from the ACJCS to the CJCS

- Requesting update of intelligence on target
- Requesting any required change in tactics from last operation
- Is 72 hour notification still required
  - When is earliest capable time if unable on Sunday
- Answer due later today

3. I asked Al if it was his opinion that the Sunday date was in "concrete" -- He indicated it was not. The job is to be done right, in a professional manner, with no stampeding.

4. The Cover Scenario of the Radar Calibration Error is not to be used. Current guidance in this area is as listed on the attached page.

RAY B. SITTON  
Colonel, USAF  
Strategic Operations Division, J-3

OSD REVIEWED 28-Nov-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. No special announcement will be made concerning these strikes.
2. If press queries are generated by any source other than a Cambodian complaint, they will be handled in accordance with current public affairs guidance.
3. Should the Cambodians register a protest which generates pressure on MACV for reply, indicate only that the matter will be investigated.
4. If the pressure persists and becomes intense, the investigation will be conducted by OSD. If considered appropriate, Secretary Laird will participate in the investigation while he is in Vietnam on his trip. In this event, State will request, through diplomatic channels, that the International Control Commission (ICC) conduct an investigation. State will also suggest that Cambodia ask the ICC to investigate.
5. Reactions from Cambodia will then be awaited. Since Cambodia will probably not allow ICC to investigate, this will be dragged out as long as possible or until the matter fades away.
6. Should it become a domestic political issue, highest authority will tell congressional leaders that the strikes were made based on the following considerations:
  - a. It was considered necessary to respond to repeated violations of agreements by North Vietnam.
  - b. He was extremely reluctant to expand the war for he was most anxious to get meaningful peace talks underway in Paris.
  - c. Time was a factor.
  - d. He did not want retaliation of a nature that would freeze talks in Paris. This type strike was considered to be less likely to do this, and it would convey the desired message to the North.