

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. Kissinger by Colonel Carlson
of the Joint Staff

DATE: August 21, 1972

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Kissinger
Commander Howe
Colonel Carlson
Colonel Woolley

The following are excerpts from the August 21, 1972 briefing:

Dr. Kissinger: How much of North Vietnam is blanketed by bad weather?

Colonel Carlson: Today it is bad from north of 19 degrees.

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Colonel Carlson: In the Que Son area, 180 of the enemy were killed while ARVN had 31 killed and 195 wounded.

Dr. Kissinger: How many are missing?

Colonel Carlson: The 195 figure is both wounded and missing. General Vinh has told General Truong to relieve the 2nd Division Commander.

Dr. Kissinger: I have been told, I don't know how many times since April, that an attack in the southeast of Da Nang was physically impossible.

Colonel Carlson: We still feel that the enemy only has the capability for limited accomplishments and no further capabilities to attack to the north. One-hundred thirty mm guns were the deciding factor in this battle.

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Dr. Kissinger: Is there no progress around Quang Tri?

Colonel Carlson: No.

Dr. Kissinger: Are they fighting?

Colonel Carlson: Yes, but there is no progress.

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Colonel Carlson: The road between Laikhe and An Loc in MR-3 is open again.

Dr. Kissinger: Is that new?

Colonel Carlson: It had been interdicted again some four days ago and, therefore, the information that it is open, is new for the past two days.

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Dr. Kissinger: What is an APC?

Colonel Carlson: An Armor Personnel Carrier.

Dr. Kissinger: What does "thirty percent destroyed" mean?

Colonel Carlson: That means that the vehicle is partially disabled. Its track was damaged but it can be repaired.

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Dr. Kissinger: In the future, I would like you to tell me how many sorties were north of 20 degrees. I have the impression that we only bomb Hanoi when I am in Saigon.

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Dr. Kissinger: (Referring to the labelled for Navy flights which was placed on the map close to the border line boundaries.)

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Are we letting the Navy fly that close to the Buffer Zone? We will be lucky if they don't hit Kontum.

The notes used by the briefers are available in a separate file.

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