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TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
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AUGUST 15, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

INFORMATION ITEMS

MORI PER
C03353182

INDOCHINA MILITARY SITUATION: THE MARINE OFFENSIVE IN QUANG TRI CITY CONTINUES TO MAKE SLOW PROGRESS AGAINST HEAVY ENEMY ARTILLERY FIRE. APPROXIMATELY 750 ENEMY ARTILLERY ROUNDS FELL ON MARINE POSITIONS WOUNDING 28 AND KILLING TWO. MARINE COUNTER-BATTERY FIRE ACCOUNTED FOR 11 ENEMY KILLED AND TWO 37-MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS DESTROYED. GROUND CONTACTS IN THE CITY WERE LIGHT. IN THE AIRBORNE AREA OF OPERATIONS, 192 ROUNDS OF MIXED HEAVY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE FELL ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS CAUSING LIGHT CASUALTIES. THE PARATROOPERS KILLED 51 ENEMY IN SEVERAL LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS WHILE LOSING ONE KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. IN SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION 1, AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS-BY-FIRE WAS REPORTED, BUT MOST WERE LESS THAN TEN ROUNDS AND CAUSED ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE.

IN BINH DINH PROVINCE, MILITARY REGION 2, THE ARVN COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE PROVINCE CONTINUES WITH LIGHT AND SCATTERED GROUND ACTIONS AND HARASSING ENEMY MORTAR FIRE REPORTED. TO THE WEST, IN THE HIGHLANDS, THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF MILITARY REGION 2 INTENDS TO LAUNCH A TWO-BATTALION PROBE DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE THANH AN DISTRICT SITUATION AND DETERMINE WHAT ENEMY FORCES ARE POSITIONED SOUTHWEST OF PLEIKU CITY.

IN MILITARY REGION 3, THE CONCENTRATION OF ENEMY FORCES IN THE BEN CAT - LAI KHE AREA OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE AND ALONG ROUTE 13 AS FAR NORTH AS CHON THANH IN BINH LONG PROVINCE, POINTS TO INCREASED LEVELS OF ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA IN THE FUTURE. ONE SIGNIFICANT CONTACT IN THE AREA YESTERDAY RESULTED IN 30 ENEMY KILLED. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE COSVN SENIOR TACTICAL COMMAND THAT EARLIER DIRECTED ENEMY OPERATIONS AROUND AN LOC HAS MOVED INTO SOUTH VIETNAM FROM CAMBODIA FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE COMMAND, NOW LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF AN LOC, IS IN POSITION TO DIRECT COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO THIS AREA.

IN THE DELTA, FRIENDLY-INITIATED CONTACTS THROUGHOUT MILITARY REGION 4 RESULTED IN A TOTAL OF 68 ENEMY KILLED AGAINST GENERALLY

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OSD review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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LIGHT FRIENDLY LOSSES. MANY OF THE CONTACTS WERE DUE TO THE COMMENCEMENT YESTERDAY OF A FRIENDLY "DONH KHOI" OPERATION.

ACROSS THE BORDER IN THE ELEPHANT'S FOOT AREA OF CAMBODIA, ARVN FORCES, SUPPORTED BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES, ARE ENGAGING THE ENEMY WITH SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. ONE HUNDRED AND ONE ENEMY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY FRIENDLY FORCES AGAINST REPORTED ARVN LOSSES OF ONE KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED. SPORADIC CONTACTS ARE REPORTED TODAY AS THE OPERATION CONTINUES.

IN NORTH VIETNAM U.S. TACTICAL AIRCRAFT WERE SCHEDULED TO HIT LINES OF COMMUNICATION, MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND STORAGE AREAS AT HANOI, HAIPHONG, VINH AND THANH HOA. HOWEVER, POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS HAVE FORCED THE CANCELLATION OF STRIKES AGAINST TARGETS IN THE HAIPHONG AREA AND MAY HAVE AFFECTED STRIKES AGAINST OTHER SCHEDULED TARGETS. THERE WERE 27 B-52 STRIKES FLOWN IN NORTH VIETNAM YESTERDAY AND EARLY THIS MORNING.

A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS AT TAB A.

CHINESE OFFICIALLY INVITE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TANAKA TO VISIT PEKING. IN A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH OF AUGUST 12, THE PRC FOREIGN MINISTER QI QUNG-FEI ANNOUNCED ON BEHALF OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI THAT THE PRC "WELCOMES AND INVITES JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA TO VISIT CHINA FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN." THE WORDING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS SUCH AS TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED THE CHINESE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT PEKING, WITH THE CHINESE MERELY RESPONDING TO HIS REQUEST. THE ANNOUNCEMENT GIVES NO INDICATION OF DATES FOR THE VISIT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE JAPANESE WILL PROPOSE A PERIOD OF TIME LATE IN SEPTEMBER TO THE CHINESE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. PRESS SPECULATION IN TOKYO SUGGESTS THE DATES AS THE 23RD TO THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER.

sounds familiar!

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