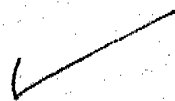


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MEMORANDUM

ARMY review completed

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



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~~CONTAINS CODEWORD~~

October 14, 1971

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Vietnam Indicators Report

Attached is the Vietnam Indicators Report for the week ending October 9. Items of particular interest include:

Casualties

U.S. battle deaths decreased to eight from the previous week's total of 21. This is the lowest weekly U.S. KIA figure since the week ending August 28, 1965 when six U.S. battle deaths were reported.

	Week Ending	Corresponding Week		Total	Total
	October 9, 1971	1970	1969	1971	1970
U.S.	8	46	82	1,364	3,842
SVN	151	163	213	8,223	17,720
VC/NVA	1,423	1,179	1,687	85,289	88,336

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity was at comparatively low levels throughout South Vietnam during the past week. Fighting has continued in the northwestern Tay Ninh Province/Cambodian border area, but has not yet achieved major proportions. Cutting the lines of communication to ARVN elements in advance positions in the Krek area of Cambodia and renewed offensive strikes against Tay Ninh, and perhaps Saigon, are possible future courses open to the enemy. Communist troop deployments suggest that they may be positioning themselves to attack the whole fabric of population control and Vietnamization in northern Military Region 3, though the present tactical disposition of enemy main force units and current intercepted communications do not point

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to an imminent major change in the present level of enemy-initiated activity.

In Cambodia enemy activity has generally been light. The Communists continue their attempts to dislodge South Vietnamese forces from Krek, but thus far they have met with little success with their nibbling tactics of attacks by fire and light ground probes.

The status of Krek remains to be decided in the light of future ARVN operational plans during the upcoming dry season. The loss of Krek at this time would result in moving the forward edge of ARVN military presence in this sector back to the South Vietnamese border and hence closer to Saigon than it has been since the incursion into Cambodia last year.

South Vietnam Developments

The opponents of President Thieu's continued rule appear to be running out of steam, and the National Assembly resumed this week amid indications that the opposition will be considerably stronger and more united than before.

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