

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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March 2, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Al Haig 

SUBJECT: Memorandum from Secretary Laird Enclosing Preliminary Draft of Potential Military Actions re Vietnam

-- At Tab A is a memorandum from Secretary Laird enclosing the initial, albeit unsanctioned, plans prepared by the JCS in response to your request of January 27 for such a scenario.

-- At Tab B is a proposed reply to Secretary Laird for your signature with some suggestions for modifications which might be considered.

The JCS plans, which have been forwarded, are I believe more extensive than the type you and the President visualized as acceptable signals of U. S. intent to escalate military operations in Vietnam in the face of continued enemy intransigence in Paris. Furthermore, any such plans should be forwarded with the views of the Chairman and the Secretary included. If implemented, they would require some level of coordination at State. The draft plan, in fact, recommends (Page 6 of the draft JCS memorandum) that an appropriate interagency Task Force be formed to refine each of the scenarios which have been developed.

In brief, the plans provide:

1. Actual or feigned airborne/amphibious operations against several objectives in NVN (Appendix A).
2. An actual or feigned airborne/airmobile expedition in force against enemy LOCs in Laos and Cambodia (Appendix B).
3. Actual or feigned renewed and expanded air and naval operations against NVN (Appendix C).

DECLASSIFIED

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By KS NARA, Date 10/29/2010

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4. Actual or feigned subversion of the population and preparation for active resistance by the people against the Hanoi regime. (Appendix D).

5. A plan for actual or feigned technical escalation of war against North (nuclear) (Appendix E).

Recommend

You sign the memorandum at Tab B to Secretary Laird which:

1. Expresses your gratitude for the excellent draft plan.
2. Requests additional refinement to include lower level actions.
3. Requests resubmission in final form by March 15, 1969.

Attachments