MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Conveying Word to Hanoi of US Threat to Sanctuary Areas

Attached is a progress report from Director Helms on actions being taken to give the North Vietnamese leadership clear reason to believe that if Phnom Penh is attacked US forces will mount sharp attacks on enemy base camps in Cambodia. Director Helms states that if Phnom Penh is attacked, US forces will mount sharp attacks on enemy base camps in Cambodia.

-- The general theme being planted is that North Vietnamese moves against Phnom Penh will provide an excuse for the US to accomplish a long-desired goal of clearing up the sanctuary problem by attacking VC/NVA forces from the rear, using channels that should get the message quickly, and credibly, to Hanoi. The basic theme planted with all of this is that the US is set to take the maximum advantage of the movement of US troops in South Vietnam to the immediate vicinity of the Cambodian Frontier.

Attachment

SECRET/SENSITIVE/YES ONLY

HAK:JTH: Heg: 4/21/70