

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/2/72

Lee Harvey :

At: HAK saw this
and said "do not
turn this into a directive".

PH

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 3, 1972

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...~~

THE PRESIDENT

HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

Information Items

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT:

H-We have had 10 years of total control of the air in Laos & V. Nam. The result = zilch. There is something wrong with the strategy in the Air Force. I want a war in Laos & V. Nam. Just in case the Communists are not ready for it. We must be ready to go in after them top!!

Military Situation in Laos: The Communists have launched heavy artillery attacks against Long Tieng. So far friendly casualties at Long Tieng have been light, but the shelling is causing morale problems among the irregular forces defending the base. Since December 31, North Vietnamese 130-mm guns have fired more than 300 rounds into the Long Tieng complex. All ordinance and building of the Lao Air Force have been destroyed. The airstrip is still usable, but the shellings have caused air operations to be shifted to Ban Son, about 18 miles southwest of Long Tieng.

Heavy cloud cover and haze have hampered U.S. air strikes in the area of the Plain. However, U.S. pilots believe they may have damaged three of the enemy's 130-mm guns. Meanwhile, ground activity in the Long Tieng area has been limited to scattered clashes and a four-battalion irregular task force, totaling over 1,000 men, has arrived in Long Tieng from Savannaket. The irregulars, who have been highly effective in south Laos, have been deployed north of Long Tieng.

In the central Panhandle, there are continued reports of sizeable Communist troop movements north and south of Dong Hene. Further south, the North Vietnamese are now in a position to exert pressure against Pakse. Although the town is not immediately threatened, the U.S. Ambassador has approved the evacuation of all U.S. dependents. A similar action was taken in May when enemy rocket attacks against the town were expected.

Rocket Attack on DaNang Air Base: Yesterday DaNang air base was struck by four 192-mm rockets. One U.S. Air Force EC-47 aircraft received extensive damage and two other U.S. EC-47s were damaged to a lesser degree. In addition, damage was reported to several pieces of ground support equipment. One U.S. airman was slightly injured.

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Military Situation in Cambodia: The military situation was generally quiet over the weekend. The Communists probed government positions in the Tonle Toch area northeast of Phnom Penh and also mortared several government outposts near Prey Veng. Government losses were light in these actions, which probably are aimed at masking enemy supply and troop movements in this area. Northwest of the capital, government reinforcements have moved into the harassed riverine base at Peam Chhkok, where intermittent Communist attacks during the past two weeks also may have covered enemy logistical activities.

Bhutto to Release Mujib: Ambassador Farland reports that President Bhutto has informed him that he will announce the unconditional release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a speech in Karachi today. Mujib's release will become effective in approximately ten days.

A Time magazine correspondent has reported that Bhutto told him on December 31 that he planned to free Mujib unconditionally on or about January 7. The correspondent also said Bhutto planned to announce this decision today. Yesterday, however, the Pakistani government officially declared that Bhutto had only stated his intention to speak on the matter shortly.

Mrs. Gandhi's Views: Mrs. Gandhi made the following major points at her annual end of the year press conference:

- It is natural that Pakistan should be in a "traumatic state" at present. However, when the situation settles "various issues" that have arisen because of the recent conflict can be discussed on a bilateral basis. The question of demanding reparations from Pakistan "can be considered" but the issue of war crimes trials is one for decision by the "Bangla Desh Government." She hinted that "adjustments" in the Kashmir cease-fire line might be a subject for negotiation.
- India is not responsible for any setback in its relations with the U.S. India "values" friendship with the U.S. and would like "very much" for its relations with the U.S. to be "friendly again." The important question is whether the "American Administration" wants India's friendship. The "American people" have shown

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the "greatest understanding" but the "American Government" must "realize the reality" that a new state of Bangla Desh has come into being and is working hard to restore normal conditions.

- Concerning the stoppage of economic aid by "some countries," Mrs. Gandhi commented that this was not aid at all, but rather long-term credits which India pays back. India was now in a position to be more self-reliant and wants to cut down on aid from "wherever it comes." "We might" accept it only for certain "very special things."
- India is still willing to normalize its relations with China regardless of its attitude during the recent Indo-Pak conflict. She did not think that Sino-Indian relations had deteriorated during that conflict.
- The Soviet Union had given India "tremendous moral support" during the war and friendship between the two countries had "deepened."

This is the clearest expression yet from Mrs. Gandhi that she is prepared to normalize relations with the U.S. if we are willing. It is also, of course, an attempt to put the onus on us for any continuing differences in the wake of the war. She seems to be taking the same approach toward the Chinese. In short, having won the war, Mrs. Gandhi may now be turning to the problems of mending her diplomatic fences.

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Mexico Combats Subversion: The Mexican government has ordered a crackdown on subversives after a year of student disorders, emergence of guerrilla groups, and two political kidnappings. While curtailing leftist activities, the roundup will produce adverse reactions from the left, especially radical students.

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