



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

CM-3957-69
20 February 1969

J. Haig
J.R.T.

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: B-52 Strikes

1. You will recall that during our conference with Secretary Laird on Tuesday morning that you asked me to prepare two or three cover stories for B-52 strikes resulting from error. Attached is a map and two copies of three possible cover stories.

2. Please note that all three cover stories are based upon B-52 strikes scheduled to take place against three target areas contiguous to the Cambodian border. As the map shows, the scheme would be to direct 18 sorties against three target boxes along the border with South Vietnam. The remaining 42 sorties would be directed against the target area.

3. Secretary Laird and I have reviewed these cover stories and the scheme and believe that they are in consonance with the paper prepared by you which Colonel Haig showed us yesterday afternoon. However, we agree that no one of the stories will stand up, at least at this time, in view of Ambassador Bunker's message to state. Therefore, any one of the stories could be used only at a later time and probably in conjunction with an actual attack by enemy forces across the border in substantial force.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 10 Jan 2012 Authority: EO 13526
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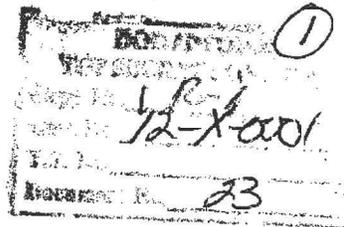
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*file Planning for 5 strikes, 6x104 VN NSC NPM
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