

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

Saturday, February 10, 1968 -- 10:00 a.m.

EYES ONLY

Mr. President:

With respect to your questions this morning about the nuclear matter:

1. Attached herewith is the memorandum to General Wheeler from Bob Ginsburgh. As you see, he raised the matter on his own with respect to Dien Bien Phu and no relation to the White House or to me.

2. In Admiral Sharp's response to General Wheeler's back channel message which followed, Adm. Sharp said that he and Westy had exchanged views several days previously on the need for some very closely-held planning about nuclear weapons should the situation around Khe Sanh warrant it and should the highest authority direct their use. He noted it was unlikely the situation at Khe Sanh would become so desperate to warrant such use, but felt military prudence alone required some such planning.

3. There are no nuclear weapons in South Vietnam. Presidential authority would be required to put them there. There are nuclear weapons on the aircraft carriers.

4. It is Bob Ginsburgh's impression that the account in the Washington Post today (page A-5) of the mission of the scientists to South Vietnam is correct; that is, they went there to check on certain aspects of the barrier hardware. That is what he found out when he checked yesterday.

5. Gen. Wheeler's message and Adm. Sharp's message were not distributed to anyone outside of General Wheeler's immediate office.

W. Rostow
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By *W. Rostow*, NARA, Date *2-14-94*~~TOP SECRET~~