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Sunday November 19, 1967
6:30 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

Three contacts with enemy units in the Dak To area have occurred since Friday. On Friday, two battalions of South Vietnamese airborne troops made a heavy contact with an enemy unit of unknown size. After fighting most of the day, contact was broken. South Vietnamese losses were 31 killed and 87 wounded; enemy losses were 6 killed.

Yesterday, in the same area as Friday's fight, South Vietnamese troops again engaged an enemy force of unknown size. South Vietnamese losses were 13 killed and 18 wounded; enemy losses are unknown.

Yesterday US Army units engaged enemy forces for four hours before contact was broken. US losses were 2 killed and 26 wounded; enemy losses are unknown.

On Friday a US merchant ship, the SS President Buchanan, was fired on by enemy troops using recoilless rifles and other automatic weapons. The ship was enroute to Saigon via the Long Pau River when the firing started. US armed helicopters and a South Vietnamese ground reaction force went to the scene forcing the enemy to leave the area. The Buchanan suffered 19 hits, but was able to proceed to Saigon under its own power. There were no friendly casualties; enemy losses were 16 killed.

An Air Force F-100, probably on a ground support mission, crashed 52 miles southwest of Bien Hoa. The pilot was killed. Cause of the crash is unknown.

North Vietnam

US aircraft struck the Yen Vien Railroad Classification Yard, 7 miles northeast of Hanoi. Initial pilot reports indicate a large number of rolling stock destroyed. Poor weather caused the cancellation of other major strikes.

Last night a F-105 went down in Laos after being hit by a surface-to-air missile over North Vietnam. The crew was picked up safely. Also two navy F-4Bs, flying in support of strike aircraft near Haiphong, were reported missing. There is no information as to the fate of the crews or the aircraft. Two F-105s are reported down in an area 6 miles from Hanoi. There will be no search effort because of the hostile environment.

White House Situation Room

James H. Rosen
Briefing Officer

