

~~SECRET~~

Wed., August 2, 1967
7:00 p. m.

102

MR. PRESIDENT:

My reaction to this attack is that we should mount a heavy raid on selected port facilities at Haiphong. The attack should avoid heavily built up areas, but it should be heavy and concentrated.

It should be mounted soon so that it would be clear to them that we were linking it to their attack on our naval supply facility. It should remind them of how much restraint we have thus far used in their highly vulnerable ports which are now backed up with warehoused supplies that they have not been able to move over their transport system.

The attack should, of course, avoid ships.

I suggest this partly because they may be feeling a little too good in Hanoi at the moment after the FORRESTAL and our urban troubles. In my judgment, it would be wholesome to know we have a lot of reserve power and the will to use it if necessary.

I also think the Hanoi TPP should be re-attacked.

If you wish to proceed on this, you may wish to review the targets proposed in General Wheeler's shouldering-out concept.

W. W. R.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 94-190
By clj, NARA, Date 4-3-95

~~SECRET~~

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 94-190

By CB, NARA, Date 4-18-95

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102a

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102b

Wednesday, August 2, 1967
5:25 p.m.

Mr. President:

The Viet Cong launched a mortar attack shortly after noon (EDT) today on a U.S. Naval supply facility about seven miles Southeast of Saigon.

First reports indicate that four minesweepers, two patrol boats, and one helicopter were damaged. One of the minesweepers and one of the patrol boats received extensive damage. Two fuel tanks in the storage area were also struck.

Casualties reported thusfar are 21 U.S. wounded.

White House Situation Room

John J. Murray

Briefing Officer

URGENT.....

SECOND NIGHTLEAD VIETNAMESE (CHANGING DATE)

BY DEREK BLACKMAN

Rostow
we have put pressure
on NMCC for an official
report.
BFS

SAIGON, AUG. 3 (THURSDAY) (REUTERS)--THE VIET CONG
EARLY TODAY LAUNCHED A HEAVY MORTAR ATTACK ON A PORT COMPLEX JUST
OUTSIDE SAIGON CONTAINING A GASOLINE STORAGE AREA AND A U.S.
NAVAL BASE, AN AMERICAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID.

102c

FIRST REPORTS SAID TWO GASOLINE STORAGE TANKS HAD
EXPLODED UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE MORTAR SHELLS AND ONE
SHIP--UNIDENTIFIED--WAS ON FIRE.

(MORE) MJL 3: 16P

F

FIRST ADD SAIGON SECOND NIGHTLEAD VIETNAMESE X X X FIRE.
FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT SPED TO THE SITE AT NHA BE,
ABOUT SEVEN MILES SOUTHEAST OF SAIGON.

THE COMPLEX IS NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE LONG TAO
SHIPPING CHANNEL WHICH LINKS THE CAPITAL TO NHA BE,
THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MORTAR ATTACK BEGAN AT FIVE MINUTES
AFTER MIDNIGHT.

A NUMBER OF THE SHELLS LANDED IN AN AMERICAN NAVY PATROL
BOAT BASE.

OTHERS SLAMMED INTO THE UNLOADING FACILITIES FOR CIVILIAN
OIL TANKERS WHICH PLY INTO SAIGON. THE TWO INSTALLATIONS
ARE ABOUT 1 1/4 MILES APART.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID REPORTS SO FAR INDICATED "CONSIDERABLE
DAMAGE" TO BOTH INSTALLATIONS FROM THE ATTACKS.

NIGHT FLYING HELICOPTERS HAD LOCATED THE VIET CONG FIRING
POSITIONS AND WERE HITTING BACK AT THE GUERRILLAS. HEAVY
ARTILLERY FIRE COULD BE HEARD FROM THE CENTER OF SAIGON AS
GUNS WERE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE ATTACKERS.

IN FIGHTING WEDNESDAY, U.S. JET PLANES BATHED A FORCE OF
COMMUNIST TROOPS IN NAPALM NEAR DANANG, KILLING 40 OF THEM
DURING THE BRIEF ATTACK.

THE SPOKESMAN X X X PICKING UP SECOND
PARA (12:43P).

MJL 3: 23P

END REPTNS