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Friday, August 11, 1967  
10:32 p.m.

*Pres file*

Mr. President:

This is a summary of choices  
of targets you requested from  
Bob McNamara.

W. W. Rostow

*It has been sent to Sec Rusk  
for comment*

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WWRostow:rlh

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By *RLG*, NARA, Date 9-3-91

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

11 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Recommendations on Additional Fixed Targets in North Vietnam

At my request, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have prepared a summary of attacks against fixed targets in North Vietnam as of 9 August 1967 and their recommendations with respect to additional targets that they believe should be authorized for strike. The table below and the remainder of this memorandum summarize their views and set out by category the respects in which my recommendations differ from those of the Chiefs.

Summary of Attacks Against Fixed Targets in North Vietnam - as of 8/9/67

	JCS List	Operating Target List
Authorized for Strike: Struck	186	259
Not Struck	8	30
Total Authorized for Strike	194	289
Additional Targets Rec. by JCS for Strike:		
a. In "Chinese Buffer Zone"	5	12
b. Classified by JCS as of "Small Value"	0	7
c. Ports	3	3
d. Lesser Targets in Populated, Highly Defended Areas-POL	1	9
e. More Signif. Targets in " " " Cohen	0	26
f. Airfields - Gia Lam & Bac Mai (1-1/2 mi fr. Hanoi: Phuoc Yen and Cat Bi	4	5
	2	2
	2	2**
g. Other: Vien Dien Depot*		
Ke Sat Hwy Bridge		
Kinh No Veh Maint. Shop*		
Hanoi Transformer*	2	4**
Total Recommended by JCS	19	70
Not Now Rec by JCS: Inactive or Insignificant	3	27
Other - Mining	6	6
Misc.	20	35
Total Not Recommended by JCS	29	68
Total Targets	242	427
Total Fixed Targets Struck: On Oper. Target List	259	
Other Targets Listed		
Bombing Encyclopedia	1625	
Total	1884	

\* Restrike  
\*\* Recommended by SecDef

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REF 94-301  
By cb, NARA, Date 1-16-96

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At the outset, it should be noted that the Chiefs have shifted from their previous JCS list to what is now called an "Operating Target" list. This "Operating Target" list includes the 242 targets previously included on the JCS list and 185 additional targets.

Of the 427 targets on the "Operating Target" list, 289 are currently authorized for strike. 138 targets are not authorized for strike. Of this total, however, the Joint Chiefs do not now recommend that 68 be authorized for strike. They do recommend that strikes be authorized against the balance of 70 targets.

I believe that air strikes should now be authorized against 6 of these 70 additional targets. The reasons underlying my conclusions can be explained in the following several categories:

#### Targets in Buffer Zone

As shown on Table I, out of the 70 new targets recommended by the Joint Chiefs, 12 fall within the buffer zone along the Chinese border. The closest is within 6 miles of the border and the most distant is 21 miles from the border. The targets consist of 1 railroad spur, 1 railroad siding, 1 railroad bridge, 8 highway bridges and 1 barracks/storage facility with an 800-troop capacity. Air strikes against these targets present a serious danger of intrusion of Chinese air space. In my opinion, strike authorization should be deferred at least until we can evaluate the political and military impact of the strikes recently authorized against 10 more significant targets within the buffer zone area.

#### Targets Described as of Small Value

7 of the targets recommended by the JCS are specifically identified as of "small value." For example, 1 of them, a tire plant 3 miles SW of Hanoi, has an annual capacity of 10,000 tires. I do not believe that targets such as this, turning out less than 30 tires per day, warrant the risk of American lives.

#### Targets in Ports

3 of the targets recommended by the Chiefs are the ports of Haiphong, Hon Gai, and Cam Pha. Strikes against these port facilities involve severe risks of damage to foreign shipping. As Admiral Sharp stated in his testimony yesterday before the Stennis Subcommittee:

"Senator Jackson: You cannot hit the docks without hitting the ships?

"Admiral Sharp: It would be pretty difficult to hit them and guarantee that you would not hit one of the ships "

#### Hanoi and Haiphong Targets

26 of the targets recommended by the Chiefs are letter targets, located in Hanoi and Haiphong or their immediate vicinity, which were not on the "JCS Target List." They include 2 railroad yards, 1 railroad siding, railroad causeway, 2 railway bridges, 4 highway bridges and vehicle repair

facilities, 1 transshipment supply depot, 3 barge repair facilities and 5 warehouse and storage depots and 1 transformer.

1 Hanoi railroad yard (JCS 21), 1 Haiphong RR bridge, and 3 warehouses (JCS 58, 59 and 62), characterized by the JCS as "important targets", are also in the immediate Hanoi or Haiphong area.

The inevitable toll in American lives and civilian casualties from strikes in these thickly populated and heavily defended areas leads me to recommend that none of these 31 targets now be authorized for strikes.

#### POL Targets

8 of the targets recommended by the Chiefs are POL locations or facilities, 6 within 10 miles of Hanoi and 2 within 2 miles of Haiphong. The total storage capacity represented is under 4,200 metric tons, or less than 18% of the average monthly import volume of 24,000 metric tons. A ninth POL target recommended by the Joint Chiefs is the Haiphong transshipment facility previously struck and largely inoperative. Here again, I do not believe that American pilots and planes should be sent to attack targets of this relative unimportance.

#### Airfields

The military elements of Bac Mai airfield and the communications elements of Gia Lam airfield are included in the balance of 8 recommended by the Joint Chiefs for inclusion on the authorized list. These fields are, respectively, 1-1/2 miles and 1 mile from Hanoi. Gia Lam is the international airport. I recommend that because of the danger of high civilian casualties, high risk of loss of U.S. pilots, and relatively low current military value, strikes against these fields not be approved at the present time.

#### Targets I Recommend for Authorization

Phuc Yen Airfield, 13 mi. north of Hanoi, is a major MIG base. MIG operations from the base have recently increased. I recommend it be struck. Cat Bi is a "MIG-capable" field, 3 mi. southeast of Haiphong to which the MIG operations might be moved if Phuc Yen is attacked; therefore I propose that it too be struck.

The remaining 4 targets, shown as item g on Table I, could, in my opinion, be authorized for strike following completion of the air campaign against the targets recently authorized. Admiral Sharp stated in his testimony before the Stennis Subcommittee that these recent authorizations would keep his pilots busy for at least the next two weeks. You may want to consider, therefore, authorizing strikes against these 4 targets, to take place no sooner than one week after completion of the strikes authorized on 9 August 1967.

I am sending a copy of this memorandum to the Secretary of State so that he may send you his comments on my recommendations and those of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

  
Robert S. McNamara

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TABLE I - Additional Targets Recommended by JCS for Strike

<u>Target</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<b>a. In Chinese Buffer Zone</b>		
Man Dong RR Spur	8 mi. from China	1500 ft. of track
Lang Son RR Siding N	8 mi. " "	1600 ft. of track
Lang Con RR Bridge NW	21 " " "	150' long - 3 spans
That Khe Hwy Bridge	14 " " "	470' long - Route 4
Cao Bang Hwy Bridge N	12 " " "	490' long - Route 3
Cao Bang Hwy Bridge S	12 " " "	375' long - Route 3
Lac Na Hwy Bridge	6 " " "	250' long - 11 concrete spans
On Hwy Bridge	20 " " "	175' long - 3 spans
Chieng Chang Hwy Bridge	15 " " "	144' long - Steel girder
Long Khap Hwy Bridge	17 " " "	320' long - 4 spans
Loc Binh Hwy Bridge	17 " " "	370' long - 5 spans
Ban Muc Bks/Stor	17 " " "	800 troop capacity
<b>b. Classified by JCS as of "Small Value"</b>		
Haiphong Concrete	In Haiphong	Capacity unknown
Hanoi Concrete	5 mi. NW of Hanoi	Annual capacity: 10,000 cu. mtr.
Hanoi Concrete	2 " " "	Asbestos - cement materials
Hanoi Engineering	In Hanoi	Lathes and grinders
Van Dien Battery	4 mi. S of Hanoi	Wet cell batteries
Haiphong Battery	In Haiphong	" " "
Hanoi Rubber	3 mi. SW of Hanoi	Annual cap.: 10,000 tires
<b>c. Ports</b>		
Haiphong	In Haiphong	Handles 80% of ocean shipping
Hon Gai	25 mi. E of Haiphong	1500 STPD vs. 3800 in Haiphong
Cam Pha	40 " " "	1300 " " " "
<b>d. Lesser Targets in Populated, Heavily Defended Areas</b>		
POL - Hanoi	6 mi. N of Hanoi	1851 metric tons
Duong Xa	8 " E " "	430 " "
Phu Thi	7 " NE " "	630 " "
Bang Se	9 " SSW " "	273 " "
Hanoi-Thi Cam	5 " W " "	393 " "
Phu Dong	5 " NE " "	350 " "
Co Nhue Vien	6 " W " "	260 " "
Haiphong	In Haiphong	Tank/drum fabrication
Haiphong	" "	Restrike of transship point
Haiphong RR Yard	" "	Major yard serving Haiphong
" " " - W	1 mi. W of Haiphong	" " from port
Van Dien RR Siding	4 mi. S of Hanoi	Serves Hanoi-Vinh RR
Cuo Duong RR Causeway	7 mi. N " "	210' long
Hanoi RR Bridge	5 " NE " "	760' long - 9 steel spans
Phu Lo RR Bridge	8 " N " "	210' long - 3 spans
Haiphong Hwy Bridge	In Haiphong	390' long - 11 spans
Haiphong Hwy Bridge	" "	310' long - 4 spans
Haiphong Hwy Bridge - SSE	" "	520' long - 5 spans

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NY 94-301

By CB, NARA, Date 1-16-96

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<u>Target</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Kien An Hwy Bridge	In Haiphong	658' long - 9 spans
Bac Mai Motor Pool	3 mi. S of Hanoi	39,000 sq. ft. vehicle repair
Hanoi Veh Repair	2 " SW " "	130,000 " " "
Hanoi Veh Depot	In Hanoi	Repair and storage
Hanoi Veh Repair	" "	Moderate size
" " "	" "	" "
Hanoi Veh Dep - Giap	" "	" "
Loi Dong Transship	4 mi. W of Haiphong	Transship and supply
Haiphong Shipyd - Thuong	NW Haiphong	Barges and small craft repair
" " - Lack	SW " "	Barge repair
Hanoi Shipyard	3 mi. SE of Hanoi	Barge and ferry construction
Haiphong Whse - W	In Haiphong	94,600 sq. ft. import storage
Kinh No Storage	4 mi. N of Hanoi	179,000 sq. ft.
Haiphong Storage SE	1 mi. S of Haiphong	48,000 sq. ft. import storage
Hanoi Storage Gia Thuong	3 mi. NE of Hanoi	Military storage
Hanoi Storage Bac Mai	3 mi. S " "	" "
Haiphong Transformer	2 mi. W of Haiphong	Junction from Uong Bi
e. More Significant Targets in Populated, Heavily Defended Areas		
Hanoi RR Yard	In Hanoi	24% of national capacity
Van Dien Supply	5 mi. S of Hanoi	) 1,273,000 sq. ft. - 12% of
Hanoi Supply Depot - S	In Hanoi	) national capacity - JCS estimate
" " " - N	2 mi. WNW of Hanoi	) "432" civilian casualties
Haiphong RR Bridge	1 mi. W of Haiphong	300' long
f. Airfields		
Gia Lam	2 mi. ENE of Hanoi	Major MIG base
Bac Mai	1 mi. SSW " "	Transport base
Phuc Yen	13 mi. N " "	Major MIG base
Cat Bi	3 mi. SE of Haiphong	MIG capable
g. Other		
Vien Dien Depot*	5 mi. S of Hanoi	Truck repair
Ke Sat Hwy Bridge	18 mi. SE of Hanoi	285' - 3 steel spans
Kinh No Veh Main*	7 mi. N " "	289,000 sq. ft.
Hanoi Transformer*	7 mi. N " "	Defer strike until repaired

\* Restrike