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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP80684

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MARCH 16, 1968

HEREWITH WESTY REQUESTS YOUR PERMISSION TO USE COFRAM
IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE -- IN UNPOPULATED AREAS.

THIS WOULD EMBRACE THE DEFENSE OF HUE AND ATTACK ON
A SHAU VALLEY.

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

CALL ME

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: USE OF COFRAM (U)

1. ON 14 MARCH 1968, GENERAL WESTMORELAND REPORTED AND
ADMIRAL SHARP CONCURRED THAT ADDITIONAL TARGET AREAS FOR
THE USE OF COFRAM ARE ESSENTIAL TO COMBAT OPERATIONS IN
SOUTH VIETNAM. THE FOLLOWING RECAP IS PROVIDED:

A. QUANG TRI, QUANG NAM, AND THUA THIEN COMPRIZE
THE THREE NORTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF SOUTH VIETNAM WITH
THUA THIEN SITUATED BETWEEN THE OTHER TWO.

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Pres. file

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo. Jan 5, 1968

By *rg* NARA Date *1-21-72*

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B. ARTILLERY AND AIR COFRAM HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED IN QUANG TRI AND QUANG NAM PROVINCES.

C. THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN THE LOWLANDS AROUND HUE AND THE ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE A SHAU VALLEY POSE AN INCREASING THREAT TO US AND FRIENDLY FORCES IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

D. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO EMPLOY THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS AVAILABLE TO PREEMPT ENEMY OPERATIONS AND TO DESTROY HIS FORCES BEFORE HE CAN SEIZE THE INITIATIVE.

2. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY COFRAM UNDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

A. COFRAM ARTILLERY IMPACTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE LIMITED TO OBSERVED FIRES AND TO COUNTERFIRES BUT ONLY IN AREAS KNOWN TO BE SPARSELY POPULATED.

B. COFRAM WILL NOT BE USED FOR HARASSING AND INTERDICTION FIRES.

C. NO GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS ARE PLACED ON THE USE OF COFRAM HAND GRENADES AND 40MM CARTRIDGES.

3. THE COMBAT AREAS OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN RECENT DAYS. ENEMY MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED WHERE THE TERRAIN INVOLVED IS WELL-SUITED FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF COFRAM, IS WELL-SURVEYED AND ACCURATELY PLOTTED ON ARTILLERY FIRING CHARTS AND LARGE-SCALE MAPS. AREAS INHABITED BY FRIENDLIES ARE WELL-KNOWN, ACCURATELY PLOTTED, AND WOULD BE AVOIDED.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I CONSIDER IT PRUDENT TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU NOW APPROVE THE USE OF COFRAM IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE. THIS AUTHORITY WOULD CLOSE THE GAP NOW EXISTING BETWEEN QUANG TRI AND QUANG NAM PROVINCES AND PROVIDE THE ENEMY NO PRIVILEGED SANCTUARY FROM OUR INCREASED FIREPOWER EFFECTIVENESS WHEN OPERATING IN THUA THIEN. SUBSEQUENT TO YOUR APPROVAL, I SHALL AUTHORIZE THE DISPATCH OF THE ATTACHED MESSAGE TO CINCPAC AND COMUSMACV.

DTG: 152000Z MAR 1968

