TOP SECRET

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JCSM-78-68

3 FEB 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Air Campaign Against North Vietnam (U)

1. (S) The effectiveness of the air campaign against North Vietnam (NVN) is currently reduced by weather associated with the northeast monsoon and by existing strike restrictions around the key areas of Hanoi and Haiphong. Through his buildup at Khe Sanh and actions throughout South Vietnam during the past week, the enemy has shown a major capability for waging war in the South. The air campaign against NVN should be conducted to achieve maximum effect in reducing this enemy capability. As a minimum, authority should be granted at this time to reduce the control areas around Hanoi and Haiphong to three, and one and one-half nautical mile radius circles, respectively.

2. (TS) The reduced control areas will expose to attack critical storage areas; transshipment points; and the road, rail, and waterway lines of communication that support movement to and from the important logistic hubs of Hanoi and Haiphong and will provide authority to strike such targets during breaks in the weather. The new control areas will also permit operational commanders greater flexibility to attack secondary, as well as primary, lines of communication to make it more difficult for NVN to accommodate to the interdiction of major routes.

3. (S) Within the concept of operations under the proposed change, control at the Washington level will be maintained over areas depicted in Annexes A and B, encompassing the major population density of Hanoi and Haiphong. Targets which will

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remain within the redefined control areas and which will be under Washington control include the ports, Gia Lam Airfield, railroad yards and shops, shipyards, storage areas, and national control facilities. Precautionary instructions to CINCPAC will be reemphasized to: (1) avoid striking populated areas in attacks on any targets, including those developed by armed reconnaissance, and (2) exercise extreme caution to avoid endangering foreign shipping.

4. ([redacted]) Operations resulting from approval of this request are not likely to result in any major confrontations with the Soviet Union or Communist China. Reaction from both countries is most likely to take the form of continued propaganda and diplomatic pressures.

5. ([redacted]) The proposal contained herein is a means of increasing the effectiveness of air operations against NVN without incurring additional risks. Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that you approve as an immediate and urgent measure the elimination of the prohibited and restricted areas associated with Hanoi and Haiphong, and establishment of: (1) a three nautical mile radius circle control area around Hanoi, and (2) a one and one-half nautical mile radius circle control area around Haiphong.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachments

041103-591

ANNEXES A AND B

(2 Maps)

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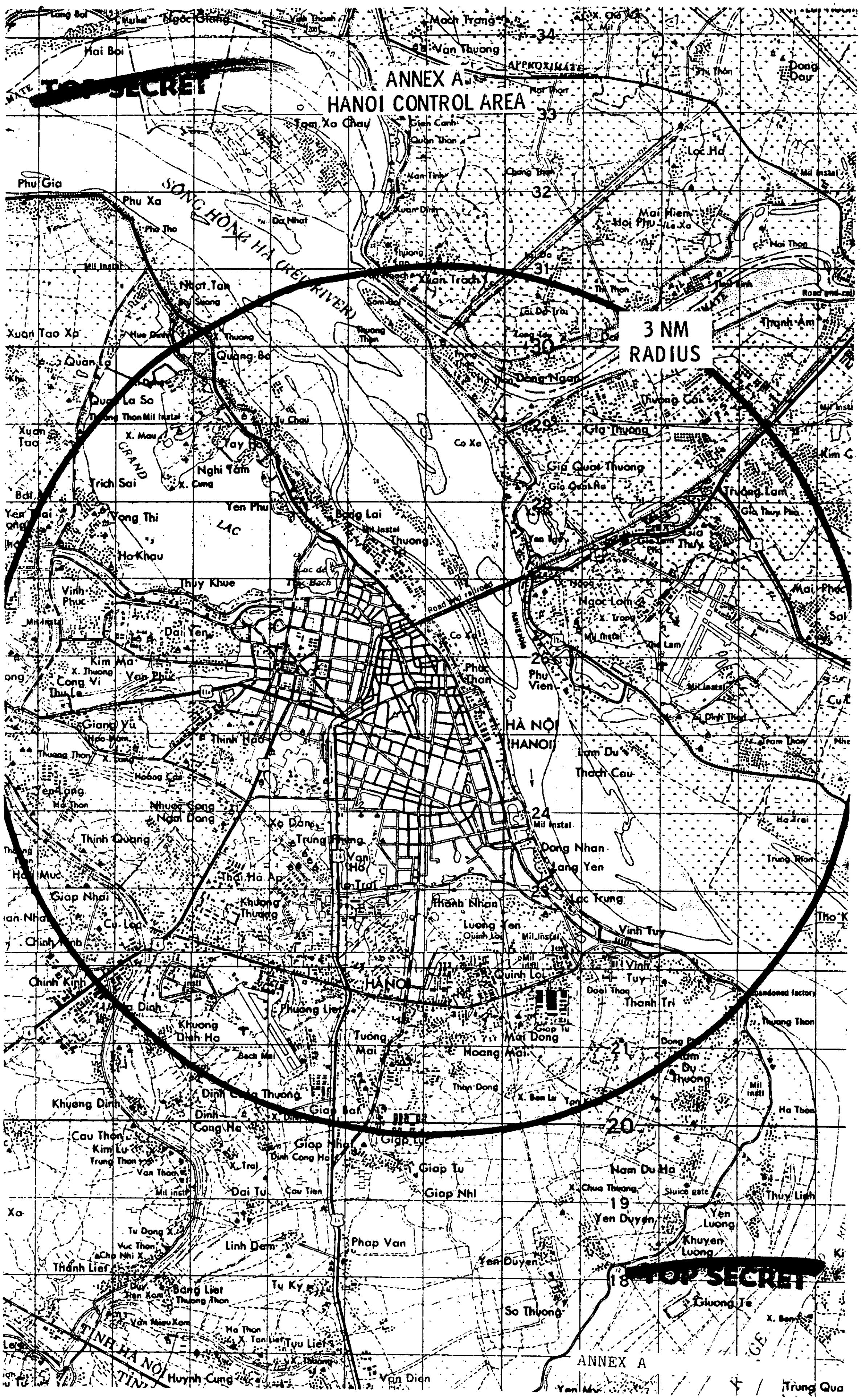
[redacted] SECRET
ANNEX A
HANOI CONTROL AREA
3 NM
RADIUS
SONG HONG HA (RED RIVER)
HÀ NỘI
(HANOI)
[redacted] SECRET
ANNEX A

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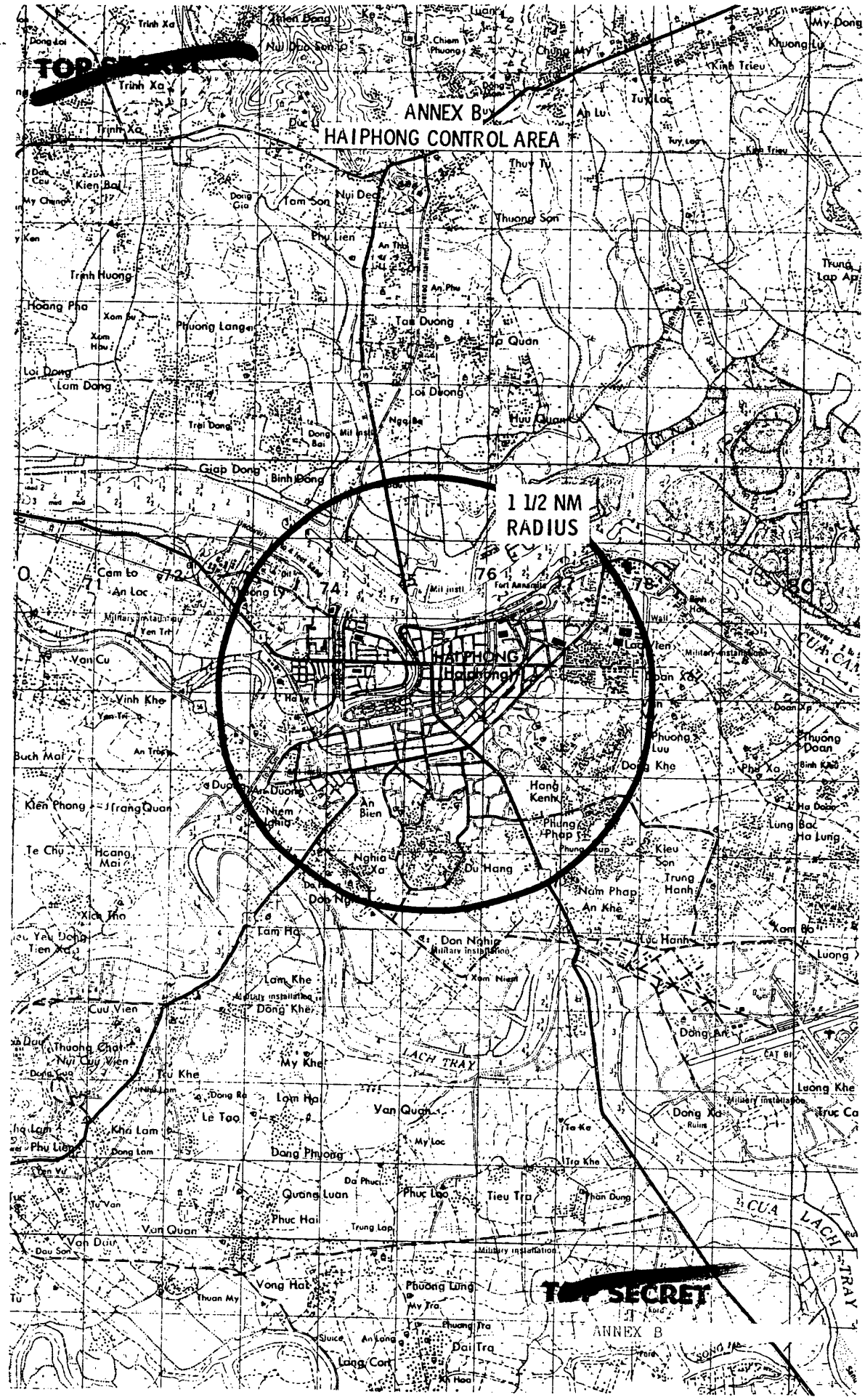
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ANNEX B
HAIPHONG CONTROL AREA
1 1/2 NM
RADIUS
HAIPHONG
(Haiphong)
Trinh Xa
Kien Bai
Tam Son
Nui Deo
Phu Lien
Thuong Son
Thuy Tu
Tuy Loc
Kinh Trieu
Khuong Lu
My Dong
Trinh Huong
Hoang Pha
Phuong Lang
Tan Duong
Ta Quan
Loi Dong
Lam Dong
Huu Quan
Giap Dong
Binh Dong
Cam Lo
An Loc
Van Cu
Vinh Khe
Bach Mai
Kien Phong
Trang Quan
Te Chu
Hoang Mai
Xich Tho
Tien Xa
Cuu Vien
Thuong Chat
Nui Cuu Vien
Tru Khe
Kha Lam
Phu Lien
Van Quan
Dong Phuong
Quang Luan
Phuc Hai
Van Dau
Vong Hat
Phuong Lung
Dai Tra
Lang Con
Phuc Loo
Tieu Tra
Dong Xa
Luong Khe
Dong An
Luc Hanh
Xam Bo
Luong
Nam Phap
An Khe
Trung Hanh
Kieu Son
Phung Phap
Hang Kenh
Du Hang
Nghia Xa
An Bien
Don Nghia
Lam Ha
Lam Khe
Dong Khe
My Khe
Le Tao
Lam Hai
Phuong Luu
Doan Xa
Thuong Doan
Phu Xa
Lung Bac
Ha Lung
Dong Khe
Military installation
LACH TRAY
CUA LACH TRAY
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ANNEX B

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