

~~TOP SECRET~~

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IM
IMMEDIATE
IMMEDIATE
JCS WASH DC
CINCPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
INFO: CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NB
COMUSMACV SAIGON VIETNAM
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
CTF 77
DISTR: CJCS, DJS, JB, CNO, CSAF, CSA, CMC

JCS 9125
DTG 261722Z

~~EXCLUSIVE~~
FOR ADMIRAL GAYLER, GENERAL MEYER, GENERAL WEYAND, GENERAL VOGT,
ADMIRAL CLAREY, GENERAL CLAY, ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY AND ADMIRAL COOPER
FROM ADMIRAL MOORER

SUBJ: AIR OPERATIONS/CEASEFIRE/POWS

1. DURING THE NEXT SIXTY DAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE EVENT WILL BE THE RETURN OF OUR PRISONERS OF WAR. PARENTHETICALLY I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT POSSESSION OF OUR POW'S IS THE ONLY LEVERAGE THE NVN HAVE. THEREFORE, IT IS ABSOLUTELY MANDATORY THAT WE CONDUCT OUR AIR OPERATIONS IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THERE WILL BE NO CAUSE TO OVERFLY NVN TERRITORY OR DELIVER ORDNANCE AGAINST TARGETS IN NVN.
2. I HAVE RESISTED THE IDEA OF A BUFFER ZONE ALONG THE LAOS-NVN BORDER BECAUSE WHATEVER DISTANCE WE SPECIFY IT WILL BE EITHER TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. CONSEQUENTLY OUR PILOTS MUST UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AND CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY. WE CANNOT PERMIT ADVERTENT OR INADVERTENT VIOLATIONS OF THE NVN BORDER WHICH MIGHT SLOW DOWN THE RETURN OF OUR POWS.

DECLASSIFIED
BY JS
DATE SEPT 11, 1997

VICE ADMIRAL J. P. WEINEL, USN
ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN

ADMIRAL T. H. MOORER, USN
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

[Signature]
CY12

See Def Cont Nr. X-0305

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3. AT THIS TIME AND UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE ARE NO TARGETS IN LAOS ADJACENT TO THE NVN BORDER THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT WE CAN RISK BORDER VIOLATIONS OR GET OURSELVES IN A POSITION WHERE WE MUST TAKE OVERT ACTION AGAINST TARGETS IN NVN. THEREFORE, AIR OPERATIONS NEAR THE LAOS-NVN BORDER WILL BE PLANNED AND EXECUTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRECLUDE OVERFLIGHT OR THE NECESSITY FOR PROTECTIVE REACTION. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD ANY MISTAKES.

4. WARM REGARDS.

~~XGDS-3~~
VVV

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