

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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24 JUN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attached is a request from the White House for another contingency plan for possible retaliatory purposes in case of future North Korean provocations. The main purpose of the requested contingency plan is to provide some measure of deterrence, should a U.S. retaliatory strike be executed, against the North Koreans retaliating in kind against the Republic of Korea.

There are a number of assumptions implicit in the White House request which I wish you would address in your response. Assumption number one is that U.S. strikes against a limited number of North Korean airfields would deter the North Koreans from retaliating against the Republic of Korea. I am not sure the airfield strikes would have the desired effect. I would appreciate your judgment in that regard.

Assumption number two is that a one-time strike, against the power plant complex and some reasonable, but limited, number of airfields would (a) serve as an appropriate U.S. retaliation and (b) deter the North Koreans from retaliating in kind. Again, I am not certain a one-time effort would suffice to diminish satisfactorily the North Koreans re-strike capability or suffice to deter the North Koreans if they were inclined to re-strike. It seems to me possible that either the damage inflicted by the initial strike would be so limited or the ability of the North Koreans to reconstitute their forces so high as to require either larger initial U.S. efforts or sustained U.S. efforts to preclude a North Korean response against the Republic of Korea. I would appreciate your judgment in that regard, too.

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Attachment (~~to TSC 3403~~)
Sen, 23 June 69

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Downgraded to Secret
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Chief, Declassification Branch, WHS

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See Def Cont Nr. X-----

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EXEMPT PER EO 12958, Sec 3.4(b)(5)
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