

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

NSC/ Sources to Smith 09/06/2002

By bar Date 02/13/07

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 12, 1970

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

National Security Decision Memorandum 77

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Air Activity in Southeast Asia Over FY 71

Following the VSSG review, the President has directed that the Department of Defense shall:

- Provide funding adequate to support an FY 1971 air activity level of 14,000 tactical air (USAF, USN and USMC), 1,000 B-52, and 1,000 gunship sorties monthly in Southeast Asia.
- Authorize a lower sorties level than funded -- between 10,000 and 14,000 tactical air sorties flown monthly in Southeast Asia -- depending upon circumstances as determined by COMUSMACV.
- Plan to compensate for this reduction in U.S. air activity by continuing DOD's intensive effort to enhance the capabilities of the VNAF to at least 4,300 sorties monthly and of the RLAf to 2,000 sorties monthly during FY 71.
- Plan to close two bases in South Vietnam (Chu Lai and Tuy Hoa) during FY 1971 and to place one base in Thailand (Takhli) on a caretaker basis until a further review.


Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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