

9th

Marine

Amphibious

Brigade

4 Apr - 16 MAY 1975

11 APR

- 0700 - Reported aboard U.S.S. BLUE RIDGE
 0800 - BRIEF BY 9TH MAB STAFF
 0900 - CTF 76 MESSAGE CONF.
 1700 - FLASH MESSAGE USAAG IS 463 CAPABLE?
 CINPACFLT 110622 (S) - MAXIMIZE LIFT, AND
 PRECLUDE CAS, INCLUDING GSF. HC CAPABILITIES AVAIL

12 APR

- 0730 - EAGLE PULL COMMENCES
 0845 - MET COL JOHNSON, COL LE GRO, COL
 MCKINSTRY, COL H. FISHER AND DISCUSSED
 IN DETAIL TALON VISE AND PLANS FOR
 DAO. PLAN TO SEND IN 5 MAN RECON
 TEAM.
 1200 - DIRECTED G-3 TO PREPARE MSG
 WITH COMMANDERS PLANNING GUIDANCE
 ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.
 ADDITIONALLY, QUESTION BANKS OF ANSWERS
 REQUIRED FROM RECON TEAM.
 1215 - REQUESTED G-3 GET COPIES OF
 463 CAPABLE MESSAGES.
 1400 - RADM WHITMIRE INFORMED ME PERSONALLY
 THAT ALL A/C HAD RETURNED
EAGLE PULL COMPLETE-
 1630 - C/S CTF 76 RX CALL COL LE GRO -
 VISIT APPROVED.

- 1900 - DISCUSSION WITH WHITMIRE ON
 LIAISON VISIT OF COL GRAY, MAJ LUTES,
 MAJ CAPTOR, MAJ KEMPLE, MAJ WINGSTON
 DECISION MADE TO GO WITHOUT APPROVAL
 OF HIGHER AUTHORITY.

13 APR

- 0750 - LAUNCHED LIAISON PARTY WITH
 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. I WILL ATTEMPT
 TO GO AT LATER DATE PER INSTR
 AND CONV. WITH WHITMIRE.

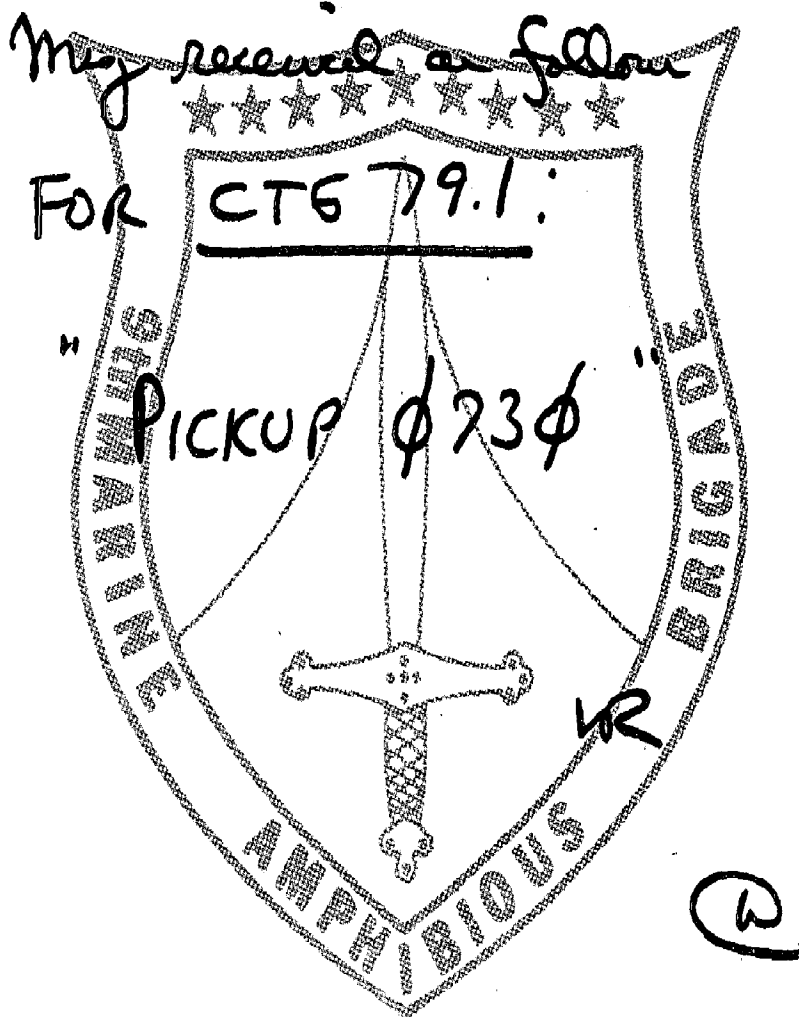
MEMORANDUM

DATE 4/13

FROM: 6-3

TO: C/S

SUBJ: msg from Am Embury SEN
"Grand Central" sender



1900- DEBRIEF OF LIAISON TEAM PERTINENT FACTS TO BE DETERMINED:

A. DAO/EMBASSY ORGANIZATION FOR ASSEMBLING REFUGEES.

ET AL. WILL MAKE TRIP TOMORROW MYSELF.

14 APR

0800- DEPARTED FOR SAIGON, UR'D VUNG TAU, RIVERS, NEWPORT PIER, DAO & AMERICAN COMPOUNDS. ALSO LOOKED AT BIEN HOA AND NUMEROUS HELO LZ'S. DISCUSSED ADVANCE GSF WITH MGEN SMITH WHO SUCCESSFULLY FLEW MSG TO CINCPAC REQUESTING OUR ENTRY FOR PLANNING ONLY. AMBASSADOR BOUGHT THIS. FORMULATED CONCEPT WITH AL GRAY AND MET WITH ADM OBERG (CINCPACFLT) AND ADM BENTON (CINCPAC) WERE ON TRACK.

1430 RETURNED BLUE RIDGE AND RX BRIEF FROM OBERG ON EVAC PLAN FOR 950,000 REFUGEES.

2000- 2 PERSONALS TO GEN HOFFMAN ON HELO FRAGGING AND ON REPORT TO ASK TO SEND GRAY TO SAIGON FOR ADVANCE GSF. THIS MAKES 3 PERSONALS, FIRST WAS REQUESTING OPCON FOR PLANNING OF 33 MAU/1/4 & FOR 31 MAU AFTER EAGLE PULL RELEASE- NO ANSWER.

2100- SHIP IS ENROUTE TO SUBIC ETA MORNING 17TH.

15 APR

1400- CONDUCTED EXTENSION DISCUSSION & BRIEFING PD WITH CTF 77 REPS.

2400- PUBLISHED BASIC OP PLAN.

16 APR

0900-1. SET STAFF IN MOTION COMPLETING ANNEXES WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THIS EVENING.

2. SET WHEELS IN MOTION FOR COMPLETING PLANNING EVACS ON 1500/3000/6000 OPTION ALSO 200,000 SEA EVAC.

2330 RX COM 7th FLT MSG WHICH NEGATES ENTIRE OP PLAN. MSG DTG 141050Z
RX 162230H.

17 APR.

0800- MET WITH GEN. HOUGHTON AND WAS INFORMED THIS UNIT WAS NOW FORMING INTO A FULL BLOWN MAB WITH BASIC UNITS AS FOLLOWS:

4TH RLT
MAG 36
9TH LSG

HALLELUYA!!

0900- MET WITH ADM WHITHEIR (CTF 76) AND ADMIRAL MICKY WEISSNER. AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH WEISSNER. DISCUSSED SCOPE OF OPERATION.

1330- CALLED GEN HOFFMAN AND DISCUSSED FORMATION OF MAB WITH FOLLOWING SALIENT POINTS

1. MAG WILL BE MAG 36 NOT PROUMAG.
2. FLYING DOWN 2 MAN SECURITY DETS FOR MSC SHIPS. 8 OTHERS ARE READY.
3. WILL START TO RECONSTITUTE 1/4 - MOVING THEM FROM DUBUQUE TO MAU CAMP WHEN SECURITY DETS ARRIVE AND ARE PUT ON DUBUQUE
4. DEPUTY OF MAB WILL BE CO ADVANCE PARTY.
5. LCOL CUNNINGHAM IS THE LIAISON

PLANNER WITH USSAG AT NKP AND LEAVES TODAY.

1430- MET WITH ADM WEISSNER AND HE OK'D FLYING DETS DOWN. REF CINCPACFLT 170443 Z (S)

1500- ADM WEISSNER REAFFIRMED OK TO FLY.

1600- MET WITH CO,'S 31 MAU, 33 MAU, CO BLT 114 AND CO MAG 36 TO INFORM THEM OF MAB COMPOSITION.

1800- CALLED GEN HOFFMAN THAT COL ROCHE HAD VOLUNTEERED AS THE DEPUTY MAB AND FOR ADVANCE LIAISON SAIGON.

18 APRIL

1000- CALL GEN HOFFMAN, WILEY TAYLOR WILL BE MY DEPUTY AND ADVANCE LIAISON GSF IN SAIGON COL BATHENDER WILL BE LIAISON AT NKP DURING THE OPERATION. MAJ YOUNG HAS CLEARANCE TO GO TO NKP WITH TAYLOR & McPHERSON TALK OF BN TO GO INTO BIEN HOA. ACB FROM HAWAII IS BEING FLOWN INTO OKI DISPOSITION OF FORCES NOW.

~~2/9~~, 1/9, 2/4 ABOARD, 1/4 IN MAU CAMP, SECURITY DETS ABOARD SHIP (PUBUQUE)
3/9 FORMING AT OKI, ACB AVAILABLE IN HAWAII.

1030- VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS TO MAJ QUINLAN RE SHIPS SECURITY DETS. INFORMED QUINLAN THAT MAB WILL PUBLISH A OP PLAN FOR SHIPS DETS CONTROL.

1130- USS MIDWAY IS NOW PART OF HELD LPH FORCE.

1300- CINCPACFLT 180037 (S) READDRESSAL OF JCS M2323Z DIRECTS CONFIG OF ADDIT CARRIER AS HELD PLAT FORM (MIDWAY). BRING ARG'S WITH APPROP ESCORTS TO 24 HOUR RESPONSE OFF VUNG TAU.

2100 - DISCUSSED 7TH FLEET 180614Z (S)
WITH GEN HOFFMAN. 1/4 WILL BE AVAIL
AS ACB IF REQD.

MSG FROM 30 MARDIV PUTTING 3/4 ON 8HR
SOBY FOR FLAWAY TO TSN.

19 APRIL

1100 - MET WITH CTF 76 ON AIR ANNEX / AIR CONTROL
PROCEDURES AT OBJECTIVE AREA AND
IN SAIGON COMPLEX. PLANNERS ARE BACK
TO THE DRAWING BOARD - SHOULD COME
OUT THIS P.M.

1400 - JCS 182032Z APUD SIX MAN ADVANCE
SECURITY DET.

1405 - APPROVAL USN COMMISSARY FOOD
STOCK AT SAIGON FOR EVACUATION
EFFORT. CINCPACFLT 180227Z APR.
SEVENTHFO 181956Z.

2230 - BASIC OPERATION PLAN FOR 9TH
MAB PUBLISHED. OBJECTIVES.

LE AT DAO/AIR AMERICA COMPOUND
L2/SEA DEBARKATION NEWPORT PIER
HELICOPTER EXTRACTION AMERICAN EMBASSY
ESTABLISH MARSHALLING/EXTRACTION
AREA AT VUNG TAU.

EXTRACT FROM CAN THO.

1800 - SO FAR HOUD SPEAKERS ON HELOS
ARE UNSUCCESSFUL. TRY AGAIN.

20 APRIL

1400 - VISITED DAO SAIGON WITH CO, PLT 4
(AL GRAY) MAB SURGEON CAPT JIM LEAH,
CO, BLT 2-4 LCOL JOHN SLADE, XO 7/9
MAJ LAKIN, CO 1/9 LCOL BOND, AND
CO, HMN 462 LCOL HERB FIX. I WAS
APPALLED! THE PLANNING PROGRESS SINCE
MY LAST VISIT ON 14 APRIL. THERE IS
STILL NOT A SOLID ROSTER OF AMERICANS.
THERE IS STILL GOOD SUPPORT FROM
AIR AMERICA BUT I'M AFRAID DAO SAIGON

AND STAFF IS HOPING FOR A MIRACLE!?
 I AM SENDING CO, PROUMAG 39 COL MAC McLENNON
 AND CO, RLT 4, COL AL GRAY AND CO, NMK
 #63 LCOL JIM BOLTON IN AGAIN TOMORROW.
 WE MUST LOOK AT ZONES AGAIN - ALL ZONES!
 ADDITIONALLY I HAVE DIRECTED GRAY TO GET
 INTO THE WORKING LEVEL AND SEE WHAT
 HAS OR HASN'T BEEN DONE AND WHAT WE
 CAN DO!! I WILL BRIEF ADM STEELE ON
 THIS TOMORROW AND SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.
 THE ONLY BRIGHT LIGHT I SEE IS ADM
 OBERG (CINCPACFLTREP) WHO PROMISED
 ME HE WOULD SEE AMBASSADOR TOMORROW.

21 APR

1400 BRIEFED ADMIRAL STEELE AND
 ADMIRAL HARRIS ON OUR PLANS
 IN DETAIL. HE WAS VERY SATISFIED
 WITH OUR PROGRESS AND FELT WE
 HAD A WORKABLE PLAN. LATER IN
 PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WE COVERED
 ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM AND
 PARTICULARLY AS PERTAINS TO PROGRESS
 IN SAIGON WITH GETTING READY. OUR
 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE AMBASSADOR
 CENTERED ON AN IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT
 TO TAKE ACTION. HE MUST BE
 CONVINCED THE TIME TO EVACUATE
 IS AT HAND AND ANY FURTHER
 DELAY CAN ONLY RESULT IN INCREASED
 CASUALTIES. I PRAY FOR A SILVER
 TONGUE AND THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON
 AS HE IS VERY INFLEXIBLE!

22 APR

0930 TRIP TO SAIGON. MET WITH MGEN SMITH (DAO)
 AND DEPUTY USSAG MGEN HUNT DISCUSSING
 REQMT PER ADM STEELE'S INSTRUCTIONS TO
 MEET WITH AMBASSADOR MARTIN. AFTERWARDS
 MET WITH MEMBERS OF "VIGILANTE COMMITTEE"

which is a group of Dedicated Marine and Army officers who are attempting to tie together this operation at DAO. Particularly dedicated are Major Sabater and Capt Woods who have helped put together the Evac^{EU} collection plan including busing and use of Air America. As a result of this meeting I took following to Ben Svenson. Tennis courts fence must be removed. (8 hours) Ball Park must be paved (40 hours) and roofs must be sandbagged (unk). Following this MGen Smith reluctantly consented. Now had appointment with Ambassador at 1600. Visited Air America with Paul Velte (X) and Van Green (UP). Found it impractical to take ~~SEA~~ Air America compound for Helo ops due to congestion and presence of large number RVN Nats. Will compress to the DAO compounds. (PX parking lot and "Alamo" talked about their problems and possibility of Con Son pickup. Met with Ambassador Martin discussing timing and avail. of forces. He had full understanding of Evac plans but feels our GSE is too large. If he Evacs all but 400 as promised we can compress and reduce to Alamo and DAO. He also informed me he would not require us to evacuate from the Embassy but would move his people to DAO via chopper from Air America or otherwise. He also informed me he may not come out but felt duty obligated to help out the Vietnamese friends who had been so faithful to us. I expressed our concern for him and our feeling about his getting out safely. It is a matter of image. He stated image and honor are akin and his honor and his countries had been violated and he was thinking of staying on in the French Embassy. He is an honorable, dedicated and highly intelligent human

WITH A GREAT DEAL OF COMPASSION AND WARMTH
BUT I FEEL HE IS TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED.

I MUST REPORT THIS TO STEELE. HE DID SAY HE
KNOWS HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY I.E. TO GET ALL
THE AMERICANS OUT !! HE REPEATED THIS AT LEAST
3 TIMES.

UPON RETURN UNABLE TO GET TO OKLAHOMA
CITY - LATER CALL WITH ADM STEELE CONFIRMED
WILL MEET WITH HIM IN A.M.

MET WITH MY OFFICERS TO GET OUT SLIGHT
CHANGE FOR A REDUCED GSF IF WE ONLY USE
DAO.

FORWARDED SPECAT APOLOGY TO ADM COOGAN
AND CO CORAL SEA FOR PAINTING OF SAR
HELD ABOARD DUBUQUE. ALSO FORWARDED PERSONAL
TO MGEN'S HOFFMAN AND GOURLEY RE AIRBORNE
DASC. I FEAR DIONISOPOLIS GOT IN THE ACT
AGAIN WITH AN INSIPID MESSAGE AS TO WHY
WE CANNOT GET THE AIRBORNE DASC. JUST
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHY WE NEED AN AVIATOR
AT HT MAF.

23 APR '15

0800 - Reported To OKLAHOMA CITY FOR CONFERENCE
WITH ADMIRAL STEELE. WE COVERED VISIT WITH
AMBASSADOR MARTIN IN ENTIRETY. I WROTE A
PARAGRAPH FOR HIM TO RECLAIMER OUR HELO
LIFT CAPABILITY OF 10,000 AS OUTLINED BY
JCS. WITH MAX EFFORT AND LOTS OF LUCK WE
CAN GO AS HIGH AS 8000 IN A MAX EFFORT
DAYLIGHT TO DARK OPERATION AND NO MORE.
WROTE PERSONAL TO IGEN BURNS AT USSAG
OUTLINING MY MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR
AND LAST MINUTE PLANS TO POSSIBLY NOT
COME OUT.

1800 - MEETING WITH AL GRAY RL1-4, MAC M'LENON
PMAG 39, HANS EDEBOHLS LSG, AL RIBBICK - AIR
OFFICER, BOB WHITE G-3, AND MAJ CAPTOR
PMAG 5-3 TO IRON OUT PROBLEMS WITH LZ

DESIGNATIONS - INSERTS AND SOME OF THE MECHANICS OF INSERTION/EXTRACTION. BELIEVE WE HAVE IT ALL ON TRACK. MESSAGE MUST GO OUT TO RECLAIMER USSAG FRAG AS IT IS TOTALLY OFF TRACK. WITH 4 PLANE - EAGLE PULL TYPE OPS.

2215 - Chopped our message to 7th Fleet regarding upcoming Typhoon - which could hit within 48 hours and create havoc for the force. USSAG has been asked!!

2245 - INFORMED MCLENON AND AL GRAY WE WILL HAVE FULL BRIEFING OF FREQUENT WIND EXECUTION TOMORROW EVENING WE WILL TRY FOR 1900 OR BEFORE DINNER IF POSSIBLE.

2300 - ANOTHER BLOW FOR FREEDOM - CTF 79 HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO PRE-POSITION THE AIRBORNE DASC AT CUBI - ASAP!!

WE HAVE THUS FAR HAD 5 MEN OVERBOARD - 4 RETURNED SAFELY.

24 APR

1530 - ANOTHER MAJOR BATTLE WON USSAG TTH CANG ITS FRAG AND WERE' NOW ON OUR OPPLAN - THINGS ARE WORKING OUT.

2000 - CONDUCTED THOROUGH BRIEF OF OPPLAN TO ALL CDRS TO INCLUDE RLT 4, COL GRAY, BLT 2/4 LCOL JOHN SLADE, BLT 1/9 - LCOL BOND, BLT 3/9 LCOL LOEAG, HMM 463 LCOL FIX, HMM 462 LCOL BOND, HMM 165 LCOL KAIZER, HMA 369 MAJ HOOTEN PLUS USAF () AF CH53'S PLUS ALL STAFF AND SUBORD COMMANDERS. TO INCLUDE MAJ QUINLAN SHIPS SECURITY DETS CDRS.

25 APR

0500 - RX EXECUTE FROM JCS TO CINCPAC - JCS 241804Z APR

AUTHORIZED OPT II, III AND IV WHEN REQUESTED BY US AMBASSADOR, SAIGON. LIMITED TO AREAS IN AND AROUND SAIGON.

0800 - 40 ADDITIONAL SECURITY MARINES SENT TO DAO. SENT IN CIV CLOTHES ABOARD AIR AMERICA HELO'S.

1000 OUR 79.1 241605Z APR (S) OUTLINES PROPER FRAG PROCEDURES - VISIT WITH THE ADMIRAL WAS APPROPRIATE.

AESF - AMPHIB EVACUATION SECURITY FORCE.

2200 - Reviewed OPTION II FOR FREQUENT WIND THIS INVOLVES 1 MAB FORCE FOR UUNG TAU - COMBINED WITH TWO AIR LIFT BLT'S - ONE TO TON SON NHUT AND ONE TO NEWPORT PIER - TOTAL EVAC CAPABILITY STRIKING FOR 200T K.

TODAY HAD ANOTHER CMD RELATIONS FLAP THIS TIME OVER TASKING TO PUT A PLATOON IN DAO COMPOUND TO ASSIST IN INTERNAL SECURITY. THIS ONE HURT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NAVY.

26 APR '75

1100 - TO DATE WITH SOME MINOR EXCEPTIONS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CTF 76 HAS BEEN SUPERB. THE MAJOR CONCERN I HAVE IS THAT POSSIBILITY OF CROSS-THREADING MIDWAY THROUGH THE OPERATION WHEN THE OPCON IS SHIFTED TO USSAG. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO HAVE GIVEN ME DIRLAUTH FOR PLANNING TO USSAG/79.1 GOOD FOR LESSONS LEARNED!!

1130 SPOKE TO C/IS CTF 79 ABOUT CTF 76 250956Z APR (S) SUBJECT F/W HELO ROUTE/LAND-LAUNCH PROCEDURES CONTAINS CHANGE OF ROUTE AND

CALL SIGNS - THIS SHOULD GO ACTION TO
USSAG VICE INFO TO PREVENT ANOTHER 11TH HOUR
PROBLEM WHEN THE FRAG COMES OUT WITH
INCORRECT CALL SIGNS AND ROUTES.

1145 - WE'LL BE CONDUCTING NAVAL GUNFIRE DRILLS
TODAY. FOUR DESTROYERS INVOLVED - U.S.S. JONES
(DDG 32), USS STODART (DDG 22), U.S.S. WILSON
(DDG-7), USS COCHRANE (DDG-21).

27 APR '15

0800 - INSTRUCTED STAFF ON 4 MAJOR PROJECTS WHICH
ARE ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO CONTINUED SUCCESS:

A. FIRST, THE RECENTLY RECEIVED FRAG FROM
USSAG/7TH IS FRAUGHT WITH ERROR, OVERSIGHT
AND INCOMPETENCE. WE APPEAR TO BE UNCOVERED
IN AIR SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST 30 MINUTES
OF THE OPERATION, SECONDLY THERE IS NO
PROVISION NO WEAPONRY FOR HELD ESCORT
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY ORDNANCE LOADS ARE
TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR CAS. WHO EVER
HEARD OF LASAR GUIDED 2000 # BOMBS
FOR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT - THEY ALSO ARE
MESMERIZED WITH 500# GP SLICKS. WE
ARE TRYING TO GET OUT A RECLAIMER IF
I CAN FIND SOMEONE ON MINE AND 76
STAFF WHO CAN PUT IT SO IT WILL SELL.
IF I ONLY HAD DIRLAUTH I'D GO WITH A
PERSONAL BUT I COULD NEVER GET WHITHEIR
TO GO ALONG - HE RUNS SCARED! IF I DON'T
GET ONE OUT TO HELL WITH IT I'LL
WRITE A PERSONAL MYSELF.

B. SECOND, WE MUST BE READY TO GO ON THIS
THING IN AN IFR MODE. M'LENON AND
CREW IS WORKING THIS. IF ONLY OUR
CONGRESS AND STATE WOULD MAKE A
DECISION - IT'S GOING TO BE COSTLY IF WE
DON'T MOVE SOON!!

C. THIRD, PUT OUR OPTIONS FOR DAO
INTO WORDS, FOR 2 COMPANIES, BLT,
AND BLT (REINF). MAT BROWN HAS A

GOOD HANDLE ON THIS.

D. FINALLY, WE HAVE TO MAKE PLANS TO RECONSTITUTE THE FORCE WHEN THIS IS OVER. 'COOGAN (CTF77) IS OVERZEALOUS IN RECONVERTING BACK TO A CVA STATUS AND IS TRYING TO LEAVE US HIGH AND DRY. SENT A PERSONAL TO HOFFMAN (CTF79) TO ALERT HIM. WERE WORKING A PROPOSAL TO GO BACK TO 79.

28 APR

0030 - FIRST STBY MSG FROM 7RFLT

0145 - USSAG ALERT - 'L' HOUR 0630
NOT AN EXECUTE!

1015 - PLAN TO TALK TO ADM STEELE ABOUT EXECUTION PHASE. WHITHIRE INSISTS NO ADVANCE HELO'S WILL GO IN - I DO NOT CONCUR SINCE WE HAVE NO GOOD VOICE. COMMS WITH GRAND CENTRAL.

1030 - SPOKE TO ADM STEELE ABOUT ABOVE REQRT TO GO IN EARLY. HE CONCURS WE MUST DO WHAT WE MUST. FURTHER, SPOKE TO McLENNON ABOUT CONDUCTING NIGHT EVAC AND FACTORS OF INFLUENCE. WE WILL PUT OUT A MESSAGE TO 7R FLEET ON HOW WE FEEL WITH INFO TO USSAG. WE ARE ALSO GOING TO LOOK INTO IFR REQUIREMENTS.

2000 - UNAF HELO WITH SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES LANDED ON THE BLUE RIDGE. NAVY WAS TOTALLY DISORGANIZED AND WITHOUT REACTION PLATOON 1 AM GOING TO OFFER TO HAVE MARINE PLATOON BACKUP ON EACH SHIP.

2130 - 280656Z TF 76 (S) MESSAGE IS 14 HOURS LATE IN GETTING OUT THE MESSAGE WAS NOT CHANGED IN CONTENT. A GROSS FEET DRAGGING OF A HIGHLY IMPORTANT CHANGE IN WHICH WE ARE ASKING FOR BROADER COVERAGE OF AIR SUPPORT AND BETTER ORDNANCE FOR CAS. IN THE INTERIM OUR MESSAGES

CROSSED (I.E. FRAG AND OUR REQUEST) SO WE MUST NOW GO OUT WITH ANOTHER MESSAGE AND MAY WIND UP SHORT. I INTEND TO SCRAMBLE NAVY AIR FOR ESCORT.

2200 PUT OUT MSG TO ALL CTG 79.1 FORCES TO BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SECURITY REACTION FORCES AND HELO SANITATION CAPABILITIES ON SHIPS THAT ARE AVIATION CAPABLE SHOULD INDIGINEOUS HELOS LAND ABOARD AS THIS ONE DID TONIGHT.

400 - AFTER BRIEFING BY G-2 (CWO HANS FISCHER) I BELIEVE OUR LOUDSPEAKERS MAY COME IN HANDY. FLEEING UNAF PILOTS TONIGHT INDICATED THE KEYHOLE IS DENSE WITH VC AND WE WILL DRAW MUCH SMALL ARMS.

29 APR

0035 WHITMIRE PERSONAL 280630 TO SMITH ADDRESSES WHEN DAO LEAVES WHO WILL CUT UMBILICAL ON EVACUATION?

0800 JUST CONVERSED WITH COL TAYLOR - SITUATION VERY UNSTABLE AT DAO - DO NOT ADVISE COMING IN WITH ANY TYPE AIRCRAFT AT THIS TIME. PESSING TO GET SHIP CLOSER SO WE CAN TALK ON KY 8 WHICH IS IN POSITION AND HAS NOT AS YET BEEN ESTABLISHED.

1200 - HERE WE GO!

30 APR

0830 - DONE! 6968 AIR EVACS HELO'S NIGHT - WX TRW - CAL - AAA HEAVY. HIGH CREW FLT TIME CAPT JERRY BERRY 22HR AVG CREW - 13 HRS.

1 MAY

0800 FIRST PROBLEM. PERSONAL ON CONTROL OF HELO'S - ANS TO HOFFMAN

2 MAY

0800- SECOND PROBLEM - 1 HOUR AND DELAY IN
EVACUATION. AUS - HOFFMAN

0300 - I'M EXHAUSTED

3 MAY

0800 - ASSIGNED AL GRAY AS INVESTIGATING OFFICER
TO INQUIRE INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF 2 MAR
KIA BODIES.

1510 - PRESS CONFERENCE.

4 MAY

1200 - SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN REQUESTING
ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING BODIES OF
CPL CHARLES McMAHON JR. AND LCPL DARWIN
L. JUDGE KIA'S. THEY MAY STILL BE IN
ADVENTIST HOSPITAL IN SAIGON. HE WILL
TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS ONE WE HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL EFFORTS
THROUGH OUR CHANNELS - WE ARE RECHECKING
CLARK, GUAM AND ALL POINTS OF ENTRY.

1530 - CALL FROM FMFPAC - MORGAN WILKERSON
STILL INVESTIGATING ALL SOURCES FOR
BODIES - INFORMED ME LAST PLANE -
KC130 WAS OUT OF SAIGON - 10 MINUTES
AFTER OUR MARINES WERE KILLED - THEY
COULD HAVE BEEN ON IT.

5 MAY

0850 - MET WITH GEN HOFFMAN TO DISCUSS
ALL ASPECTS OF FREQUENT WIND
OPS.

13 MAY SS MAYAGUEZ SEIZED BY CAMBODIA.

14 MAY

0950- Boarded Hancock, short meeting with 31 MAU and CTF 76 staff. Discussed crossdecking 31 MAU LUT's, LSU etc.

1010- LENGTHY MEETING WITH ADM WHITMIRE ON RELATIONSHIPS, DISCUSSION OF OPERATION AND SHIP LOADING. ONE POINTED QUESTION AS FOLLOWS: IF WE ARE REQUIRED TO CONFIGURE TO A MAB LEVEL DO WE HAVE ENOUGH SHIPPING? MY REPLY STATED LOSS OF VANCOUVER WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT - I THINK WE CAN MAKE IT BUT WE WILL BE OVERLOADED AND SLEEP ON THE IRON ON MANY SHIPS. IT WILL DEFINITELY HAVE EFFECT ON OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO US.

U.S.S. HANCOCK

1530 UNDERWAY TO CAMBODIA - ORIGINAL OPTIONS AS CALLED TO ME ON 13 MAY AS FOLLOWS - CALL FROM TF 79 -

1. SEIZE CAMBODIA
2. SEIZE PALAU ISLAND
3. BLOCKADE KOMPONG SOM
4. MINE KOMPONG SOM
5. SEIZE KOMPONG SOM
6. ATTACK CAMBODIAN NAVY.

LINEUP FOR FORCE

<u>1/4</u>	<u>2/4</u>	<u>3/9</u>
OKINAWA (LPH)	THOMASTON (LSD)	MOBILE (LKA)
DUNLUTH (LSD)	PEORIA (LST)	TUSCALOOSA (LST)
MT VERNON (LSD)	HANCOCK (CMAH)	ANCHORAGE (LSD)
BARBOUR CTY (LST)	(VANCOUVER) (LPD)	DENVER (LPD) (FLAG CONFIG)

16 MAY

0045- CHECKED WITH LCOL GOODWINE (CTF 76) RE B/A AMMO ON DENVER, ANCHORAGE, AND TUSCALOOSA. CHECKING TO SEE WHAT LOAD IS ON MOBILE. IF B/A NOT ABOARD WE SHOULD GO BACK EARLIEST AND HAVE B/A PICKED UP BY OKINAWA TO HAVE APPROPRIATE AMMO WHEN 3/9 RENDEZVOUS'S.

STAFF MEETING

0900 - Discussed B/A FOR 3/9 WITH ADM WHITHIRE. CTF 76 WILL ATTEMPT FURTHER CONTACT WITH MOBILE TO GET STATUS OF B/A. I SOLICITED ADM WHITHIRES ASSISTANCE IN GETTING B/A ON BOARD OKINAWA IF MOBILE DOES NOT HAVE B/A FOR 3/9 OR IF TUSCALOOSA/AUKDRAGE/DENVER DO NOT HAVE B/A FOR EMBARKED TROOPS. HE ALSO ADVISED ME THAT HIS STAFF WOULD FURTHER INVESTIGATE STATUS OF 'L FORM'.

1030 - SHIPS FLASH MESSAGE THAT WE HAD RX WORD LOSS OF H53 - 15 OF EMBARKED PEOPLE RECOVERED. MESSAGE TRAFFIC INDICATES STRIKES ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON KONDONG SOM TO INCLUDE -

TGT 2 - PHUMI PH SAR MARINE/NAVAL BASE
CENTER OF NAVAL BASE

TGT 2 - REAM AIRFIELD

DMPI - CENTER OF RUNWAY

TGT 3 - KOMPONG SOM HARBOR FACILITY
DMPI LARGE WAREHOUSES

1525 SENT MESSAGE TO USSAG REQUESTING ALL AVAILABLE INFO ON BOTH FRIENDLY AND ENEMY SITUATION AT KON TANG - PURPOSE WAS TO OPEN IT UP THAT WE ARE ON THE WAY.

1606 SENT MESSAGE TO CINCPACFLT RECOMMENDING AGAINST EARLY USE OF H53 HELOS WITH TANKS. ADDITIONAL HELOS SHOULD BE EMPLOYED WITH ADEQUATE GUNSHIP ESCORT AND COMMAND AND CONTROL ASSETS ON SCENE.

MAJOR LESSON LEARNED:

NIGHT OPERATIONS IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AGAINST ENEMY WITH UNSOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT IS SAFER THAN DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
 HEADQUARTERS
 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, FMF
 FPO, San Francisco 96602

16 May 1975

MEMORANDUM

From: Communications-Electronics Officer
 To: Commanding General
 Via: Chief of Staff

Subj: Traffic Totals

1. The following are the USS Hancock traffic totals for 13, 14, and 15 May 1975.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OUTGOING</u>	<u>INCOMING</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
13 May	39	436	475
14 May	83	513	596
15 May	72	689	761

2. Figures for 16 May 75 will be obtained prior to debarkation.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

W. G. Kemple

W. G. KEMPLE
 MAJ USMC

[Handwritten mark]

REC