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<del>#19 meeting notes</del>	<del>private meeting in president's office prior to regular weekly luncheon 2 p.</del> <i>open 10-11-83 NLS 82-85</i> <del>possible classified information</del>	<del>10/13/67</del>	<del>A</del>

FILE LOCATION

Meeting Notes File, Box 2

DCH 10/81

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October 13, 1967

PRIVATE MEETING IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
OCTOBER 11, 1967  
PRIOR TO THE REGULAR WEEKLY LUNCHEON

Attending were:

Secretary Rusk  
Secretary McNamara  
General McConnell  
Walt Rostow  
George Christian

Secretary McConnell stated that the reason for the meeting was to hear the recommendations of General McConnell on air strikes in Phuc Yen air field. General McConnell said that MIGs are getting more active in the Phuc Yen area, although the need for a strike now is really no greater than it has been. He said the MIGs are changing their tactics. We lost three planes this month to MIGs; we will lose one to three planes on the proposed strike.

The President asked what would be accomplished.

The General replied that if we catch the MIGs there, we can do pretty well. He said there are 16 aircraft at Phuc Yen, and taking out half of them would be a highly successful strike.

The President asked if there is any urgency in the next week or so.

General McConnell replied that if we catch the MIGs there, we can do pretty well. He said there are 16 aircraft at Phuc Yen, and taking out half of them would be a highly successful strike.

The President asked if there is any urgency in the next week or so.

General McConnell replied that the longer we wait the more damage they will do to us.

Secretary McNamara said there are still 14 authorized targets in the area which have not yet been struck.

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Authority NLS 82-85  
By res, NARS, Date 10-11-83

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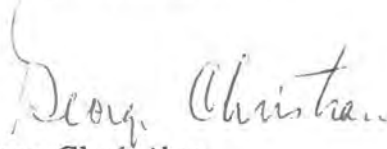
He described the air field as militarily marginal. He said we had lost 3 planes in the first 9 days of October, compared with none in July, 2 in August and 1 in September. Since the rate of activity is up, Admiral Sharp has made a strong request. Secretary McNamara said that you can't attack the air field once and stop. It will have to be restruck.

Secretary Rusk asked how important it is to surprise the enemy.

General McConnell replied that the enemy cannot be surprised, that they are expecting us to hit the air field any time we go into that area.

Secretary Rusk said that we should not keep referring to targets being shifted from one list to another. Everytime we hit a new target, there is a notion around the world that this is escalation. He said each one gets built up. He said he is not too concerned about Phuc Yen, but suggested it be held off a few days. He said he does think it is a marginal target.

No immediate decision was reached on the authorization.

  
George Christian

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