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Meeting Notes File, Box 2

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NOTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ADMIRAL U.S. GRANT SHARP, USN

April 9, 1968 5:40 p.m.

Camp David, Md.

Admiral Sharp: North Vietnam was chopped up pretty bad at Khesanh. All in all, we have them on the run, at least temporarily. Westmoreland is fanning out after them.

We've never been in a war yet where we didn't have a setback now and then. General Krulak said the same things Westy said - things are looking good.

We're going to have mortar attacks on installations - there's no way to stop that. We're going to have that kind of losses.

The President: Who is the best Navy replacement for you?

Admiral Sharp: McCain, Clary, Hyland or Rivers. Otherwise, you would have to name a vice admiral.

McCain is decisive, meets people well, was legislative liason, gets along well with other services and departments. Jack is not as arbitrary as his father. He has worked with Ambassadors and with other countries.

The President: Should that be a Navy job?

Admiral Sharp: I think it should. Most of the command is water. Noramlly, the first thing that happens in the Pacific is the Navy and Marines get in. I haven't found it a disadvantage to be a Navy officer.

They're apprehensive at what we'd do if we open up again. The beginning of May is the best time. Hanoi needs hitting.

