MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

March 25, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: Destroyers Patrolling Offshore North Vietnam

The attached report aboard the which was caused by offshore mortar fire from North Vietnam raises sharply the question of why U.S. destroyers on these patrols

Although in this case no serious problem resulted from the North Vietnam attack, I can foresee the possibility of a misleading news report in the event the circumstances of this attack leak to the press.

I called this report to the attention of Ben Read who spoke to Mr. Katzenbach. Katzenbach expects to discuss this question with Mr. Vance today.

B KS

Bromley Smith

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Authority: NSI/RAC 09-14
By: Cbm, NARA, Date: 12/12/40

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Report of Nuclear Incident

1. At 241918 EST the [redacted], operating approximately 4,000 yards offshore east of the DMZ, was hit by what was estimated to be three rounds of mortar fire. [redacted] was conducting a Naval Gunfire Support patrol for BEACON HILL I operations and was not firing a mission at the time of the attack. [redacted] opened range and fired 78 rounds of counterbattery fire with unknown effect. The mortar ceased firing at [redacted] when the range to the beach was about 7,800 yards.

2. Results of this attack were two direct hits in the ASROC (anti-submarine rocket) magazine and the third in the radar room. One Rocket Thrown Depth Charge (RTDC) motor ignited. The magazine was flooded and the fire extinguished. [redacted] Eighteen torpedoes with conventional warheads were also stored in the magazine. All of the weapons in the magazine were damaged to varying degrees from shrapnel holes in fins to heat and water damage. There was no apparent damage to [redacted] No personnel were injured.

3. CINCPAC has directed an investigation to determine if any received damage.

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J. TRUM III
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director for
Operations (NMCC)

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E.O. 13326, Sec. 3.5
By NLJ/PAC DC-71 appeal
NARA, Date 3-31-11
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