

260. National Security Council Decision Memorandum 57¹

Washington, April 26, 1970.

TO

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Attorney General
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT

Actions to Protect U.S. Forces in South Vietnam

Based on the National Security Council meeting of April 26, 1970,² I direct that the following steps be taken to protect U.S. forces operating in South Vietnam:

—Authorization for the conduct of ground operations by U.S. forces or by US/GVN forces into identified North Vietnamese/Viet Cong sanctuaries in Cambodia up to a depth of 30 kilometers. With the exception of the operation against Base Area 352/353, U.S. or combined US/ARVN operations against specific base areas will be submitted to me for approval on a case-by-case basis.

—Authorization for the provision of U.S. tactical air/helicopter and artillery up to a depth of 30 kilometers in all base areas north of and including 352/353.

The Washington Special Actions Group is designated as the implementing authority for these steps.

Richard Nixon

¹ Source: National Archives, Nixon Presidential Materials, NSC Files, NSC Institutional Files (H-Files), Box H-073, WSAG Meeting, Cambodia, 4/27/70. Top Secret; Sensitive; Principals Only. A copy was sent to Wheeler.

² See Document 259 and footnote 2 thereto.