

From transcript of news conference, 10 Dec 70:

Question 15. Consultation on Sontay.

Q. Mr. President, on related matters involving the Congress, you've been charged repeatedly that you do not consult enough with members of Congress, and the most recent example was the raid on Sontay. Wonder if you might specifically answer the charge as to why you did not consult the members of Congress as the raid was occurring or immediately thereafter, when all the men were safe?

A. The reason that we did not consult with the members of Congress as the raid was occurring or before it was, of course, because of the high risk involved of the men who were participating.

And as far as the information was concerned afterwards, there was a period of time in which it was felt that the full information should be given to the country at a later time.

I believe that when we look at the record here, all of the information with regard to the raid has been completely put out - there's been no attempt to withhold anything. It was a very brave attempt. I'm very proud of the men who participated in it. I regret that it did not succeed. But I think that it gave hope to the men who were there, and I think it also gave a great deal of hope to their wives who were here.

Transcript filed Nixon Administration.