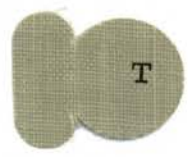


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CHAIRMAN  
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Mr. Walt Rostow  
White House





~~TOP SECRET~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-3-78 letter  
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

CM-3051-68  
24 Feb 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland  
and General Abrams

1. General Westmoreland's daily cable reports on activity at Khe Sanh and in the DMZ area. Following heavy artillery, mortar and rocket fire at Khe Sanh on the afternoon and evening of 23 February, reports for 24 February indicate only light and sporadic fire at Khe Sanh.

2. Vietnamese forces have captured the Palace inside the Citadel and the VC flag that was flying over the Palace is now in the First ARVN Division Command Post. Friendly forces hold all of Hue except a quarter circle 500 meters in radius at the southwest corner of the Citadel wall. General Westmoreland commented that it appeared that enemy resistance was crumbling. President Thieu plans to visit Hue on 25 February, although General Westmoreland indicated that the weather forecast is such that President Thieu may not be able to land. General Abrams reports a number of gallant actions by the First ARVN Division starting with attack on Citadel west wall at 0200 hours on 24 February and culminating in seizure of the Palace after daylight. The responsible company commander was promoted to Captain on the spot by the Vietnamese Division Commander. The remaining enemy-held area is tightly encircled. Enemy withdrawal is expected.

3. There was little activity in the II Corps Area.

4. In III Corps Area the major activity was the rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut and the area around Tan Son Nhut. One round landed not far from the house where General Wheeler was spending the night. General Wheeler and General Westmoreland are spending the night of 24-25 February in General Westmoreland's Headquarters.

5. In IV Corps Area 19 separate operations throughout the Corps Area resulted in 109 enemy killed at a cost of 30 Vietnamese killed. Two battalions of the U.S. Riverine Force swept an island in the river immediately north of Can Tho and Binh Tuy airfield and picked up a number of Viet Cong suspects. This island has been a source of fire against river patrol craft and has constituted a long-time nuisance. Highway 4 was open from Saigon to Bac Lieu on 24 February.

~~TOP SECRET~~

1 of 1 copies

~~TOP SECRET~~

6. I questioned General Westmoreland concerning intelligence reports that indicate an early attack on Da Nang. General Westmoreland indicated that he and General Wheeler visited Da Nang on 24 February and that the threat of ground attack on Da Nang does not appear to be significant. I also questioned him about the movement of substantial enemy forces from the north into the Saigon area. He believes that the three divisions reported in the area have suffered substantial casualties in earlier contacts and that the forces guarding Saigon can handle the situation. General Westmoreland has the capability to reinforce Saigon promptly.

7. Following the visit to Da Nang, General Wheeler and General Westmoreland met with President Thieu, Vice President Ky and General Vien. Topics discussed were not reviewed by General Westmoreland, but he indicated a wide-ranging, useful and realistic exchange of views.

8. General Westmoreland is endeavoring to divert some B-52 strikes into the A Shau Valley where he reports that 30 ground targets exist that constitute what he considers to be an alternate logistics complex built up to support the attack on Hue. Diversions of B-52 strikes will not be at the expense of a continued pounding around Khe Sanh. In addition, intelligence teams will be inserted in and near A Shau Valley as weather permits; unfavorable weather has prevented attempts made during this past week.

*Harold K. Johnson*

HAROLD K. JOHNSON  
ACTING CHAIRMAN  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

~~TOP SECRET~~



EEA 198  
00 WTE 10  
DE WTE 812

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80537

~~SECRET~~

Received Washington CommCen  
9:10 A.M. EST Saturday 24 Feb 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommCen  
10:00 A.M. CST Saturday 24 Feb 68

~~SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 24, 1968

TODAY'S KHE SANH REPORT:

- 1500 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE;
- SMALL PROBING GROUND CONTACTS;
- 165 TONS DELIVERED;
- BAD WEATHER CONTINUES;
- NEVERTHELESS, CONSIDERABLE AIR SUPPORT AND SOME SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By *ip* NARS, Date 6-25-79

ADDITIONAL LATE ITEM: INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THE ENEMY'S MAJOR ARTILLERY REGIMENT HAS MOVED UP CLOSE TO THE BASE NEAR KHE SANH TOWN.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24-HOUR PERIOD FEBRUARY 23, 1968.

FRIENDLY ELEMENTS BORDERING IN THE DMZ EXPERIENCED AN ACCELERATED ENEMY THRUST YESTERDAY AS ENEMY FIRING WAS IN EXCESS OF 1500 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY, EARMARKED FOR FRIENDLY HELD INSTALLATIONS. KHE SANH COMBAT BASE, THE PREFERRED ENEMY TARGET, BORE OVER 85 PERCENT OF THESE ENEMY EXPLOSIVES AS 1000 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY, AND 300 ROUNDS OF MORTAR IMPACTED IN THE VICINITY. CASUALTIES WERE: 10 KILLED IN ACTION, 51 WOUNDED IN ACTION (21 EVACUATED). INCIDENT TO THE BOMBARDMENT WAS A FIRE IN AN AMMUNITION SUPPLY DUMP, AS 1000 HIGH EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS, 120 CANISTER ROUNDS BOTH 90MM AND 500 BEEHIVE ROUNDS 106MM WERE DESTROYED. RESUPPLY IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW. COUNTER BATTERY WAS FIRED ON SUSPECTED ENEMY FIRING POSITIONS RESULTING IN ONE LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSION.

FEW AREAS WENT UNTOUCHED IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. CAMP CARROLL RECEIVED 23 ROUNDS OF MORTAR; 26 ARTILLERY ROUNDS IMPACTED AT DONG HA. FOUR MARINES REQUIRED EVACUATION AT CAMP CARROLL; TWO MARINES WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AT DONG HA. AT CON THIEN, FOUR AFTERNOON ENEMY BARRAGES BROUGHT 65 ROUNDS OF HEAVY ARTILLERY ATOP POSITIONS HELD BY THE MARINES. AN ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT FELL IN THE SALINE



AREA AS ELEMENTS FROM THE 1ST MARINES COUNTED 61 ROUNDS, WHICH INFLICTED MINOR WOUNDS ON ONE MARINE. FINALLY, ENEMY ATTENTION CONTINUED TO FOCUS AT CUA VIET AS THE 1ST AMTRAC RECEIVED 18 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY.

IN GROUND ACTION YESTERDAY, AN ARVN RANGER BATTALION MADE CONTACT WITH AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION AT KHE SANH, 200-400 METERS FROM THE PERIMETER. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY WAS FIRED IN SUPPORT. CASUALTIES ARE UNREPORTED. ALSO, IN A SMALL CONTACT AGAINST A SMALL ENEMY FORCE, A MARINE COMPANY SUCCEEDED IN KILLING 7 NVA, WHILE SUSTAINING ONE FRIENDLY FATALITY.

THIRTY ROUNDS OF 105MM COFRAM ORDNANCE WERE EMPLOYED IN ONE MISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE ARVN RANGER BATTALION IN THE VICINITY OF THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE ON A SUSPECTED NVA BATTALION, WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

A TOTAL 351 TACTICAL SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE PERIOD IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 68 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, TWO SECONDARY FIRES, AND SIX BUNKERS DESTROYED. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 199 SORTIES AND THE NAVY FLEW 84 SORTIES. WEATHER AGAIN NECESSITATED THE MAJORITY OF MISSIONS BEING COMBAT SKY SPOT. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FROM VISUAL STRIKES INCLUDED SIX SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, SEVEN SECONDARY FIRES, NINE ROAD CUTS, TWO ROCKET POSITIONS DESTROYED, AND FIVE TRUCKS AND FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED. THERE WERE 14 B-52 STRIKES (45 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AERIAL RESUPPLY TO KHE SANH FOR THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 165 SHORT TONS. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AMOUNTED TO ONE SHORT TON. IN ADDITION 17 REPLACEMENT PASSENGERS WERE LANDED AT THE THE AIR FIELD. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALED 15 ON 23 FEB. TEN C130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED 10 AIRDROPS. THREE C123 AIRCRAFT LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD AS DID 2 MARINE HELICOPTERS.

FOR THE NEXT PERIOD 288 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WILL BE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THERE WILL BE SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES (42 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD, THE WEATHER AT KHE SANH WAS POOR, WITH LOW STRATUS CLOUDS REDUCING THE CEILING TO 100 TO 1000 FOOT BROKEN AND DENSE GROUND FOG LOWERING SURFACE VISIBILITY TO 1/16 TO 5 MILES.

THE FORECAST FOR TODAY IS FOR CLOUD CEILINGS AND SURFACE VISIBILITIES NEAR ZERO EXCEPT FROM 1000 AM TO 6:00 PM WHEN THE CEILING WILL RAISE TO 500 FOOT BROKEN AND THE VISIBILITY TO 1 MILE IN GROUND FOG AND DRIZZLE.

DTG 241410Z FEB 68

~~SECRET~~

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7-24 68  
Joes told Rostow

~~TOP SECRET~~

Received Washington CommGen  
11:17 A.M. EST Saturday 24 Feb 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommGen  
11:22 A.M. CST Saturday 24 Feb 68

VZCZCEEA202  
OO WTE10  
DE WTE 820

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80543

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B-52's

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-4-78, NSC 8-19-80  
By inf, NARS, Date 9-2-80

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 24, 1968

HEREWITH GEN. JOHNSON'S REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION  
WITH WESTY AND ABRAMS.

IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A TONE OF SOMEWHAT INCREASED  
CONFIDENCE IS EMERGING FROM OUR MILITARY IN SAIGON -- AS IF THE  
SCALE AND LIMITS OF THE TASK AHEAD HAD BECOME MORE MEASURABLE  
AND MANAGEABLE. BUT MUCH OBSCURITY STILL BECLOUDS THE COUNTRY-  
SIDE WHERE MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE.

1. GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S DAILY CABLE REPORTS ON ACTIVITY AT  
KHE SANH AND IN THE DMZ AREA. FOLLOWING HEAVY ARTILLERY, MORTAR  
AND ROCKET FIRE AT KHE SANH ON THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF 23  
FEBRUARY, REPORTS FOR 24 FEBRUARY INDICATE ONLY LIGHT AND  
SPORADIC FIRE AT KHE SANH.

2. VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE CAPTURED THE PALACE INSIDE THE  
CITADEL AND THE VC FLAG THAT WAS FLYING OVER THE PALACE IS NOW  
IN THE FIRST ARVN DIVISION COMMAND POST. FRIENDLY FORCES HOLD  
ALL OF HUE EXCEPT A QUARTER CIRCLE 500 METERS IN RADIUS AT  
THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CITADEL WALL. GENERAL WESTMORELAND  
COMMENTED THAT IT APPEARED THAT ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS CRUMBLING.  
PRESIDENT THIEU PLANS TO VISIT HUE ON 25 FEBRUARY, ALTHOUGH  
GENERAL WESTMORELAND INDICATED THAT THE WEATHER FORECAST IS  
SUCH THAT PRESIDENT THIEU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LAND. GENERAL  
ABRAMS REPORTS A NUMBER OF GALLANT ACTIONS BY THE FIRST ARVN  
DIVISION STARTING WITH ATTACK ON CITADEL WEST WALL AT 0200 HOURS  
ON 24 FEBRUARY AND CULMINATING IN SEIZURE OF THE PALACE AFTER  
DAYLIGHT. THE RESPONSIBLE COMPANY COMMANDER WAS PROMOTED TO  
CAPTAIN ON THE SPOT BY THE VIETNAMESE DIVISION COMMANDER. THE  
REMAINING ENEMY-HELD AREA IS TIGHTLY ENCIRCLED. ENEMY WITH-  
DRAWAL IS EXPECTED.

3. THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY IN THE II CORPS AREA.



4. IN III CORPS AREA THE MAJOR ACTIVITY WAS THE ROCKET ATTACK ON TAN SON NHUT AND THE AREA AROUND TAN SON NHUT. ONE ROUND LANDED NOT FAR FROM THE HOUSE WHERE GENERAL WHEELER WAS SPENDING THE NIGHT. GENERAL WHEELER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND ARE SPENDING THE NIGHT OF 24-25 FEBRUARY IN GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S HEADQUARTERS.

5. IN IV CORPS AREA 19 SEPARATE OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CORPS AREA RESULTED IN 109 ENEMY KILLED AT A COST OF 30 VIETNAMESE KILLED. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE U.S. RIVERINE FORCE SWEEP AN ISLAND IN THE RIVER IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF CAN THO AND BINH TUY AIRFIELD AND PICKED UP A NUMBER OF VIET CONG SUSPECTS. THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF FIRE AGAINST RIVER PATROL CRAFT AND HAS CONSTITUTED A LONG-TIME NUISANCE. HIGHWAY 4 WAS OPEN FROM SAIGON TO BAC LIEU ON 24 FEBRUARY.

6. I QUESTIONED GENERAL WESTMORELAND CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT INDICATE AN EARLY ATTACK ON DA NANG. GENERAL WESTMORELAND INDICATED THAT HE AND GENERAL WHEELER VISITED DA NANG ON 24 FEBRUARY AND THAT THE THREAT OF GROUND ATTACK ON DA NANG DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT. I ALSO QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL ENEMY FORCES FROM THE NORTH INTO THE SAIGON AREA. HE BELIEVES THAT THE THREE DIVISIONS REPORTED IN THE AREA HAVE SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES IN EARLIER CONTACTS AND THAT THE FORCES GUARDING SAIGON CAN HANDLE THE SITUATION. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS THE CAPABILITY TO REINFORCE SAIGON PROMPTLY.

7. FOLLOWING THE VISIT TO DA NANG, GENERAL WHEELER AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND MET WITH PRESIDENT THIEU, VICE PRESIDENT KY AND GENERAL VIEN. TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE NOT REVIEWED BY GENERAL WESTMORELAND, BUT HE INDICATED A WIDE-RANGING, USEFUL AND REALISTIC EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

8. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS ENDEAVORING TO DIVERT SOME B-52 STRIKES INTO THE A SHAU VALLEY WHERE HE REPORTS THAT 30 GROUND TARGETS EXIST THAT CONSTITUTE WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE AN ALTERNATE LOGISTICS COMPLEX BUILT UP TO SUPPORT THE ATTACK ON HUE. DIVERSIONS OF B-52 STRIKES WILL NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF A CONTINUES POUNDING AROUND KHE SANH. IN ADDITION, INTELLIGENCE TEAMS WILL BE INSERTED IN AND NEAR A SHAU VALLEY AS WEATHER PERMITS: UNFAVORABLE WEATHER HAS PREVENTED ATTEMPS MADE DURING THIS PAST WEEK.

DTG: 241617Z FEB 63

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Received Washington CommCen  
8:35 A.M. ST Sunday 25 Feb 68

2A

Received LBJ Ranch CommCen  
8:24 A.M. CST Sunday 25 Feb 68

VV EEA221  
OO WTE10  
DE WTE 847

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80564

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By if NARS, Date 6-25-79

~~SECRET~~

MR. ROSTOW WILL BE IN LATER THIS MORNING AND WILL HAVE  
A COMMENT ON THIS REPORT FOR YOU.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-ONE ON THE SITUATION  
IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24-HOUR PERIOD  
FEBRUARY 24, 1968.

ENEMY ACTION SLACKENED CONSIDERABLY IN NORTHERN  
QUANG TRI PROVINCE YESTERDAY AS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS  
DAY'S ACTIVITIES. ENEMY SHELLING DECREASED GREATLY. THE  
KHE SANH COMBAT BASE WAS AGAIN THE PRIMARY TARGET OF THE  
ENEMY SHELLING AS THE FRIENDLY FORCES RECEIVED OVER HALF  
OF THE 532 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY, ROCKET, AND MORTAR ROUNDS  
DIRECTED AGAINST OUR AREAS YESTERDAY. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES  
AT KHE SANH AS THE RESULT OF THE ENEMY SHELLING AMOUNTED  
TO SEVEN KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED, WITH 11 WOUNDED EVACUATED.

ENEMY EFFORTS RELAXED IN THE LANCASTER AREA AS ONLY ONE  
MORTAR ROUND IMPACTED AT CAMP CARROLL. FOUR ROUNDS OF  
MORTAR FELL AT DONG HA WITH FOUR ADDITIONAL ROUNDS  
FALLING AT C-2. FIVE MARINES REQUIRED EVACUATION AT C-2.  
ENEMY SHELLING INTENSIFIED AT CON THIEN, HOWEVER, AS  
THAT BASE RECEIVED 237 EARLY AFTERNOON ROUNDS OF MORTAR  
AND ARTILLERY, RESULTING IN TWO MARINES KILLED, AND FIVE  
WOUNDED AND EVACUATED. AT CUA VIET, THE 1ST AMTRAC  
BATTALION RECEIVED 18 ROUNDS OF 100MM ARTILLERY IN THE  
AFTERNOON, WITH THREE MARINES REQUIRING EVACUATION.  
OTHER THAN SHELLING, ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA CONSISTED OF  
THREE SPORADIC CONTACTS INVOLVING THE 3D BATTALION,  
3D MARINES AND THE 1ST BATTALION, 4TH MARINES IN OPERATION  
KENTUCKY. THEY ENGAGED AND KILLED 11 NVA WHILE SUSTAINING  
NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES. IN AN OBSERVED FIRE MISSION  
YESTERDAY, FIVE NVA WERE KILLED IN THE OPEN ABOUT SEVEN  
KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF CAMP CARROLL. AT CUA VIET A  
NAVY CONVOY WITH THREE UTILITY LANDING CRAFTS, ONE MECHANIZED  
LANDING CRAFT, AND PATROL CRAFT, RECEIVED ANTI-TANK ROCKET,  
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AND MORTAR FIRE, RESULTING IN TWO  
USN WOUNDED AND EVACUATED.

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THERE WERE FIVE ROUNDS OF COFRAM TYPE ORDNANCE FIRED DURING THIS PERIOD, MIXED WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVES, ON TROOPS IN THE OPEN, WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS DUE TO OBSERVER-TO-TARGET RANGE.

A TOTAL 294 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING THE PERIOD IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 92 SORTIES, WITH BOMB DAMAGE INCLUDING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, FOUR SECONDARY FIRES, AND TWO BUNKERS DESTROYED. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 162 SORTIES, THE NAVY FLEW 40, WITH 106 SORTIES ON COMBAT SKY SPOT. VISUAL BOMB DAMAGE INCLUDED TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, SEVEN SECONDARY FIRES, FIVE MILITARY STRUCTURES DESTROYED, AND 30 MILITARY STRUCTURES DAMAGED. SEVEN B-52 STRIKES (36 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AERIAL RESUPPLY TO KHE SANH FOR THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 152 SHORT TONS. SIXTY-NINE PASSENGERS WERE LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 24 ON 24 FEBRUARY. NINE C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED NINE AIR-DROPS. FIVE C-123 AIRCRAFT LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD AS DID TEN MARINE HELICOPTERS.

FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS 288 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WILL BE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THERE WILL BE SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES (39 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

WEATHER AT KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME. CLOUDS REDUCED THE CEILING TO LESS THAN 600 FEET AND DENSE FOG LOWERED THE SURFACE VISIBILITY TO LESS THAN THREE MILES. FROM 11:00AM - 5:00PM THERE WAS SOME IMPROVEMENT AS THE CEILING LIFTED TO 1700 FEET AND THE VISIBILITY TO SEVEN MILES. THE FORECAST FOR 25 - 26 FEBRUARY DOES NOT INDICATE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO REPORT THAT HUE CITADEL WAS CLEARED OF ENEMY AND SECURED AT 7:30AM. I HAVE JUST SENT MY CONGRATULATIONS TO GEN TRUONG.

DTG 25/1335Z FEB 67

~~SECRET~~

DE MIE 221  
OO MIEIC  
AA EEWSSJ

Received Washington CommCen  
10:32 EST Sunday 25 FEB 68

VZCZCEEA222  
00 WTE 10  
DE WTE 848

Received LBJ RANCH CommCen  
10:28 CST Sunday 25 FEB 68

~~TOP SECRET~~

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80565

DECLASSIFIED

Authority QCS 10-3-78 letter  
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 25, 1968

HEREWITH GEN. JOHNSON'S REPORT OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH  
GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. GENERAL WESTMORELAND INDICATED THAT HIS DAILY CABLE  
AND OPERATIONS REPORTS COVERED THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM  
COMPREHENSIVELY. HE ADDED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AS OF THE  
TIME OF MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

THE RECOVERY OF HUE WAS A SIGNIFICANT MORALE BOOSTER TO  
THE VIETNAMESE IN THE AREA. PRESIDENT THIEU VISITED HUE  
AND EXTENDED HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FORCES THERE.  
THE VIETNAMESE INTEND TO RETAIN THREE VIETNAMESE MARINE  
BATTALIONS IN AND AROUND THE CITY. THE 3D ARVN REGIMENT  
OF THE FIRST ARVN DIVISION WILL RETURN TO ITS OPERATIONAL  
AREA NORTHWEST OF THE CITY WHERE IT WILL RECEIVE  
REPLACEMENTS AND HAVE ITS COMBAT CAPABILITY RESTORED.

2. DURING THE DAY SOME ENEMY 130MM ARTILLERY SHELLS  
LANDED AT DONG HA. IN THE RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE SOUTHEAST OF  
SAIGON ONE TUG AND ONE MERCHANT SHIP WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY  
WHAT ARE PRESUMED TO BE RECOILLESS RIFLES AND POSSIBLY RPG-2  
AND RPG-7 ROCKETS. ALL DAMAGE WAS ABOVE THE WATER LINE AND  
THE TUG AND THE SHIP PROCEEDED TO SAIGON UNDER THEIR OWN POWER.

3. THE PATTERN OF ENEMY ACTIONS INDICATES AN ENEMY EFFORT  
TO ISOLATE AND STRANGLE MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS WITH A  
SPECIAL EFFORT DIRECTED TOWARD SAIGON.

4. THE GENERAL TEMPO OF ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM  
APPEARS TO BE SLOWING DOWN SOMEWHAT. THE ENEMY IS HARDER TO  
FIND AND HE APPEARS TO BE BREAKING DOWN INTO SMALLER UNITS.

5. GENERAL WESTMORELAND CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE  
DETAIL CONTAINED IN NEWS STORIES FILED FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. HE  
EXPECTS TO HAVE A REVIEW OF HIS PROCEDURES COMPLETED BY THE  
EVENING OF 26 FEBRUARY AND IS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THE CREDENTIALS  
OF CERTAIN REPORTERS IF GROUND RULES HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN VIOLATED  
BY THEM.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~



6. THE STAYING POWER OF THE ARVN CONTINUES TO BE UNDER INTENSIVE STUDY. VIETNAMESE UNITS HAVE NOW BEEN ENGAGED ACTIVELY FOR ABOUT 26 DAYS. THEY HAVE SUFFERED MORE THAN A NORMAL NUMBER OF CASUALTIES. SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. SEPARATIONS (DISCHARGES) FROM THE MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PERFORMED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE.

B. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN SEPARATED IN THE PAST WITH LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE ARE BEING RECALLED TO ACTIVE SERVICE. GENERAL WESTMORELAND DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER HAVE YET RETURNED TO DUTY BECAUSE THIS PROGRAM HAS JUST BEEN STARTED.

C. INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH MILITARY OFFENSES AND SERVING IN LABOR UNITS OR CONFINED IN MILITARY CONFINEMENT FACILITIES HAVE BEEN GRANTED AMNESTY AND ARE BEING RETURNED TO THEIR MILITARY UNITS.

D. SOME INDIVIDUALS ARE IN TRAINING TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXPANDED VIETNAMESE MILITARY STRUCTURE. GENERAL WESTMORELAND DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE DIVERTED TO REPLACE THE HIGHER THAN EXPECTED CASUALTIES IN THE EXISTING MILITARY STRUCTURE. (MY COMMENT: DIVERSION TO REPLACE CASUALTIES WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF FORMING THE ADDITIONAL ARVN MILITARY UNITS.)

7. GENERAL WESTMORELAND RECEIVED A LETTER DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY FROM GENERAL VIEN, CHIEF OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE JOINT GENERAL STAFF, POINTING OUT THE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON VIETNAMESE MORALE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF MODERN WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF ENEMY UNITS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL GUERRILLAS. GENERAL WESTMORELAND INDICATED THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE CARBINE AND DESCRIBED IT AS A "POP GUN."

8. GENERAL WHEELER DEPARTED SAIGON AT APPROXIMATELY 4 P.M., SUNDAY, SAIGON TIME FOR BANGKOK.

~~TOP SECRET~~

DTG: 25 1532Z FEB 68



~~TOP SECRET~~

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Received Washington CommCen  
12:00 P.M. EST Monday 26 Feb 68

Received <sup>IBJ</sup> Ranch CommCen  
12:00 P.M. CST Monday 26 Feb 68

EEA239  
OO WTE10  
DE WTE 871

FROM: WALT ROSTOW  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
CITE: CAP80582

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-4-78; NSC 8-19-80  
By inf, NARS, Date 9-2-80

~~TOP SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 26, 1968

HEREWITH WESTY REPORTS HIS NEW DISPOSITIONS:

- TO DEAL WITH A PROBABLE ATTACK (FEB. 27 OR 28) IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS (DAK TO-KONTUM-PLEIKU);
- AND TO GET THE ARVN BACK ON THEIR FEET AND MOVING, WHICH WILL HAVE GEN. ABRAMS' FULL ATTENTION, WITH GEN. CUSHMAN TAKING OVER THE I CORPS.

SUBJECT: GENERAL JOHNSON'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S DAILY REPORT NUMBER 22 COVERS THE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS NOW TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO BOTH THE NEAR-TERM AND LONGER-TERM FUTURE. IN THE I CORPS AREA HE INTENDS TO CONVERT MACV FORWARD TO A PROVISIONAL CORPS HEADQUARTERS TO COMMAND OPERATIONS NORTH OF AI VAN PASS. WHEN THIS CONVERSION TAKES PLACE, THE PROVISIONAL CORPS, THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION IN THE DA NANG-AI VAN PASS AREA AND THE AMERICAL DIVISION WILL BE SUBORDINATE TO III MAF HEADQUARTERS, COMMANDED BY GENERAL CUSHMAN. IT IS THE INTENTION TO CONCENTRATE NOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FIRST ARVN DIVISION IN CLEARING THE ENEMY FROM THE COASTAL AREAS AND AS THE MONSOON SHIFTS, TO WORK AGAINST THE ENEMY AND HIS BASE AREAS TO THE WEST AWAY FROM THE COASTAL AREAS. IN THE MEANTIME, B-52 STRIKES WILL BE EMPLOYED AGAINST ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN THE A SHAU VALLEY. INTELLIGENCE TEAMS ARE STANDING BY WAITING FOR A WEATHER BREAK TO BE INSERTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE A SHAU VALLEY, TO GET BETTER INTELLIGENCE OF ENEMY ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA.



2. SOME TROOP ADJUSTMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE II CORPS AREA. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 173RD BRIGADE HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE VICINITY OF KONTUM AND THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS WILL MOVE TO THIS AREA FROM BAN ME THUOT WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. THE ENEMY WHO HAVE THREATENED BAN ME THUOT (THE 33D NVA REGIMENT) APPEARS TO HAVE WITHDRAWN TO THE WEST. GENERAL WESTMORELAND ESTIMATES THAT THEY HAVE ONE OR TWO COMBAT EFFECTIVE BATTALIONS; THAT THEY ARE NOW ENGAGED IN RESTORING THEIR COMBAT STRENGTH; AND HE EXPECTS CONTACT WILL BE GAINED AGAIN WITH THIS UNIT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS FROM NOW. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS DISCUSSED THE FRIENDLY TACTICAL POSTURE IN II CORPS WITH GENERAL ROSSON, AND THE TWO OF THEM BELIEVE THAT FORCES ARE WELL DISPOSED TO MEET ANY ATTACK IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, IF SUCH ATTACK TAKES PLACE.

3. GENERAL WESTMORELAND MET TODAY WITH GENERAL WEYAND AND GENERAL KHANG IN THE III CORPS AREA. FRIENDLY FORCES ARE DISPOSED TO MEET ATTACKS ON PROVINCE AND DISTRICT TOWNS IN THE CORPS AREA, ALTHOUGH NEITHER GENERAL WEYAND NOR GENERAL KHANG ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PREVENTING FUTURE ROCKET ATTACKS. THEY BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE FORCES CAN REACT RAPIDLY BUT CANNOT PREVENT THE EARLY ROCKET ROUNDS FROM BEING LAUNCHED.

4. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS PLANNING TO ASSIGN GENERAL ROSSON TO REPLACE GENERAL ABRAMS WHEN MACV FORWARD IS CONVERTED TO A PROVISIONAL CORPS HEADQUARTERS UNDER GENERAL CUSHMAN'S COMMAND. GENERAL ABRAMS WILL THEN RESUME HIS FULL-TIME DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES AND RENEW HIS FOCUS ON ARVN AND POPULAR AND REGIONAL FORCES. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO RETURN GENERAL ABRAMS TO THE PRIMARY TASK OF RESTORING FULL COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE ARVN.

DTG: 261700Z FEB 68

~~TOP SECRET~~

LEVOX 17

2A

~~SECRET~~

Received Washington CommCen  
10:38 A.M. EST Monday 26 Feb 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommCen  
11:40 A.M. CST Monday 26 Feb 68

VZCZCEEA238  
OO WIE10  
DE WIE 866

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80577

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
Authority  
By ig, NARS, Date 6-25-79

47a

~~SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 26, 1968

HEREWITH WESTY'S DAILY KHE SANH REPORT. GENERAL IMPRESSION:  
THEY ARE INCREASING THEIR PRESSURE ON THE BASE, WITH BOTH ARTILLERY  
AND GROUND PROBES.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-TWO ON THE SITUATION  
IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD  
FEBRUARY 25, 1968.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD WAS LIMITED  
TO ENEMY INCOMING ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS,  
WITH SPORADIC GROUND CONTACTS. A TOTAL OF 689 ENEMY  
ROUNDS WERE FIRED AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN NORTHERN  
QUANG TRI PROVINCE. 350 ROUNDS FELL AT KHE SANH, IN  
POSITIONS HELD BY THE 26TH MARINES, RESULTING IN THREE  
MARINES KILLED, 52 WOUNDED (32 EVACUATED). MATERIEL  
DAMAGE INCLUDED TWO HELICOPTERS DESTROYED, AND  
TWO DAMAGED. CONDITION OF THE KHE SANH RUNWAY  
WAS REPORTED TO BE POOR.

CAMP CARROLL RECEIVED FOUR ARTILLERY ROUNDS. AT  
DONG HA, 22 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY FELL AT NOON, INFLECTING  
SERIOUS INJURIES TO ONE MARINE. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS  
CAUSED TO THREE COBRAS AND FOUR LIGHT OBSERVATION PLANES.  
AT C-2 AND SURROUNDING AREAS, THE MARINES RECEIVED 18 ROUNDS OF  
MIXED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR. 260 ARTILLERY ROUNDS AND 25 ROUNDS  
OF MORTAR FELL AT CON THIEN. LIGHT SHELLING RECURRED  
AT CUA VIET AS THE 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION RECEIVED TEN  
ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY IN EARLY AFTERNOON SHELLING.

IN GROUND CONTACT DURING THE PERIOD, A SWEEP BY THE  
3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, IN THE VICINITY OF THANH  
XUAU RESULTED IN ONE ENEMY KILLED, AND ONE MARINE RECEIVED  
MINOR WOUNDS.

IN ANOTHER GROUND CONTACT, A MID-MORNING PATROL FROM  
B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES ENGAGED AN ESTI-  
MATED NVA COMPANY JUST SOUTH OF THE KHE SANH BASE. THE  
CONTACT BROKE AT NOON WITH ONE MARINE KILLED, 21 WOUNDED  
AND 25 MISSING. ENEMY CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN.

IN OTHER ACTION WITHIN NORTHERN DMZ OPERATIONS, A MEDEVAC  
HELICOPTER CRASHED OUTSIDE HILL 881 (SOUTH) PERIMETER.  
PILOT AND CREW ARE SAFE WITHIN THE PERIMETER. IN THE LATE  
AFTERNOON, THREE ENEMY SELF-PROPELLED GUNS WERE  
REPORTED 10 KILOMETERS WEST OF HILL 881. AIRSTRIKES WERE  
CONDUCTED BUT WEATHER PREVENTED DAMAGE ASSESSMENT.  
IN ANOTHER SIGHTING, THREE TANKS WERE REPORTED IN THE  
VICINITY OF KHE SANH AND WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY AIR

A TOTAL OF 229 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 85 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE INCLUDED TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, ONE SECONDARY FIRE AND ONE ROCKET POSITION DESTROYED. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 110 SORTIES, AND THE NAVY FLEW 34 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED 30 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, ONE ROCKET POSITION DESTROYED, SEVEN SECONDARY FIRES, TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (30 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 162 SHORT TONS. IN ADDITION, 27 PASSENGERS WERE AIR LANDED. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 15 ON 25 FEBRUARY. NINE C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED NINE AIR DROPS. ONE C-123 LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD, WHILE TWO C-123 AIRCRAFT AIR-DROPPED MATERIAL AT THE DROP ZONE. THREE MARINE HELICOPTERS LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD.

FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, A TOTAL OF 286 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE SANH AREA. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (21 SORTIES) WILL BE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

KHE SANH WEATHER DURING THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 25, WAS MARKED BY LOW CLOUDS AND FOG UNTIL 10:00 A.M. AT THAT TIME THE FOG DISSIPATED AND THE CLOUD CEILINGS IMPROVED TO 1600 FEET. VISIBILITY THEN REMAINED GOOD. THE FORECAST FOR 26 - 27 FEBRUARY IS FOR GOOD VISIBILITY UNTIL ABOUT 9:00 P.M. 26 FEBRUARY WHEN FOG WILL FORM AND CAUSE LOW VISIBILITY AGAIN. THE CLOUD CEILINGS DURING DAYLIGHT OF 27 FEBRUARY ARE EXPECTED TO BE UP NEAR 2500 FEET BUT LOWERING AT NIGHT TO 300 FEET OR LESS WITH FOG FORMATION.

THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (USP) STATUS AS OF 8:00 P.M. FEB. 25 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 P.M. 24 FEB EST (9:00 A.M. 25 FEB SVN)
CLASS I (RATIONS)		
MEAL, COMBAT,		
INDIVIDUAL	12	4 DAYS
B RATIONS	9	9 DAYS
CLASS III (FUEL)		
AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	7.2	7.2 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	1	1 DAY
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	8.7	7.2 DAYS
DIESEL	6.8	5 DAYS
CLASS V (AMMUNITION)		

#### A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE



60-MM MORTAR	23	23 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	13	14 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	30	30 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	21	22 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	18	19 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	19	16 DAYS

#### B. ANTI-TANK

#### ROUNDS ON HAND

90-MM HEAT	89
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	1,386
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	234
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	334
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	100
106-MM HEAT	144
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	866
3.5" ROCKET	950

	PREVIOUS STATUS
DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	8:00 P.M. 24 FEB EST (9:00 A.M. 25 FEB SVN)

#### CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

2. ON 25 FEBRUARY. KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 162 TONS AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	30.5	TONS
CLASS III	22	TONS
CLASS IV	17.25	TONS
CLASS V	90	TONS
CLASS VII	2.25	TONS

DTG: 261538Z FEB 68

~~SECRET~~

2A

Received Washington CommCen  
8:22 A.M. EST Tuesday 27 Feb 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommCen  
9:45 A.M. CST Tuesday 27 Feb 68

EEA257

00 WTE10  
DE WTE 893

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP80602

WIM JET  
FREE SMY 50  
LOW

JONES  
Rostow

48

DECLASSIFIED  
USD letter

Authority JAN 3 1979

By if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~

TEXT OF REPORT FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND. THIS IS REPORT  
NUMBER TWENTY-THREE ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ  
AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD FEBRUARY 26, 1968.

THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE  
MODERATE SHELLING DURING THE PERIOD AS 150 ROUNDS OF  
ARTILLERY, 50 ROUNDS OF ROCKET, AND 50 ROUNDS OF MORTAR  
FELL WITHIN THE PERIMETER. THE SHELLING RESULTED IN ONE  
KILLED AND 23 WOUNDED, NINE OF WHOM WERE EVACUATED.  
NO MATERIEL DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND CONTACTS  
MADE AT KHE SANH, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT SIGHTINGS WERE MADE  
RESULTING FROM OR RESULTING IN FRIENDLY ACTIONS. AT 10:50 AM,  
A COMPANY OF MARINES SPOTTED AN ENEMY MORTAR FIRING FROM  
A POSITION ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF HILL 881. COUNTER MORTAR  
REGISTERED AND SUPPRESSED THE ENEMY MORTAR FIRE. AT  
5:00 PM, AN AIR OBSERVER, ADJUSTING FIRE ON FIVE ARTILLERY  
POSITIONS 17 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KHE SANH, IN LAOS,  
OBSERVED ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION AND ONE SECONDARY  
FIRE. AT 6:30 PM, A MARINE COMPANY SIGHTED  
WHAT APPEARED TO BE A TRACKED VEHICLE ABOUT  
FOUR KILOMETERS WEST OF THE KHE SANH BASE, BUT FOG  
MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ADJUST A FIRE MISSION. AT 7:25 PM,  
THE 37TH ARVN RANGER BATTALION REPORTED THAT PERSONNEL  
MANNING A LISTENING POST SAW A SQUAD SIZE NVA UNIT MOVING  
TOWARD THEIR PERIMETER. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS EXCHANGED  
RESULTING IN THREE NVA KILLED. AT 8:30 PM, MARINES OBSERVED  
THREE LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS RESULTING FROM AN ARC  
LIGHT STRIKE.

ELSEWHERE ALONG THE DMZ HEAVY INCOMING FIRE WAS REPORTED AT  
DONG HA AND CON THIEN. A TOTAL OF 300 ROUNDS FELL ON  
DONG HA DURING THE PERIOD. RESULTS WERE ONE KILLED AND  
22 WOUNDED. MATERIEL DESTRUCTION WAS HEAVY AND  
INCLUDED 20,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL, TWO LIGHT OBSER-  
VATION PLANES, FOUR GENERATORS, ONE ARMORED PERSONNEL  
CARRIER, AND ONE JEEP AND TRAILER. MAJOR DAMAGE  
WAS REPORTED TO TWO AHIG'S, TWO GENERATORS, TWO PERSONNEL  
CARRIERS TWO FIVE TON TRUCKS, ONE WRECKER, TWO DUMP TRUCKS,  
ONE ASPHALT DISTRIBUTER AND ONE WATER TRAILER. CON  
THIEN RECEIVED 181 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND 35 ROUNDS OF  
MORTAR. THERE WAS NO REPORT OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.



THE MARINES AT C2 RECEIVED TWO ROUNDS OF MORTAR, WITHOUT REPORT OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. ADDITIONAL SPORADIC INCOMING FELL ON A3, AND ON THE 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION, WITH NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED. AT 8:00 AM, A LANDING CRAFT CONVOY ON THE CUA VIET RECEIVED RECOILLESS RIFLE AND MORTAR. FIRE WAS RETURNED BY THE MARINE ELEMENTS IN THE CONVOY AND AN ENEMY MORTAR POSITION WAS REPORTED DESTROYED.

THERE WERE 268 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THE MARINES FLEW 84 SORTIES, REPORTING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND TWO SECONDARY FIRES. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 157 SORTIES AND THE NAVY FLEW 27 SORTIES. VISUAL BOMB DAMAGE REPORTED WAS 23 ENEMY KILLED, FIVE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, FOUR SECONDARY FIRES, SIX TRUCKS DESTROYED, FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED. SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD TOTALLED 192.5 SHORT TONS. A 155MM HOWITZER (6.25 SHORT TONS) WAS AIRLIFTED IN, ALONG WITH 1.25 SHORT TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLES. IN ADDITION, 115 PASSENGERS WERE LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD. A TOTAL OF 30 RESUPPLY SORTIES WERE FLOWN. ELEVEN C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED 10 AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDING. TWO C-123 AIRCRAFT ALSO LANDED, WHILE ONE C-123 COMPLETED AN AIR DROP. SIXTEEN MARINE HELICOPTERS LANDED AT KHE SANH.

FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, A TOTAL OF 286 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THERE WILL BE SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

KHE SANH WEATHER FOR THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF 26 FEBRUARY WAS CLOUDY WITH THE LOWEST CLOUD BASES AT 1500 TO 1800 FEET. THE VISIBILITY WAS GOOD. THE CLOUDS LOWERED AND RAIN BEGAN AFTER 7:00 PM. LOW CLOUDS, FOG AND SOME LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED THROUGH THE NIGHT UNTIL 5:00 AM ON THE 27TH. AT THIS TIME THE CLOUDS BECAME SCATTERED AND THE VISIBILITY INCREASED TO 7 - 10 MILES. THE FORECAST IS FOR CONTINUED GOOD WEATHER DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THE 27TH. LOW CLOUDS AND FOG ARE EXPECTED TO FORM AFTER MIDNIGHT AND CONTINUE INTO THE EARLY MORNING HOURS.

1. THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT STATUS AS OF 8:00 PM FEBRUARY 26 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 25 FEB EST (9:00 AM 26 FEB SVN)
	-----	-----
CLASS I (RATIONS)		
MEAL, COMBAT,		
INDIVIDUAL	13	12 DAYS
B RATIONS	9	9 DAYS
CLASS III (FUEL)		
AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	5.2	7.2 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	2	1 DAY
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9.3	8.7 DAYS
DIESOL	8	6.8 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	30	23 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	12	13 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	30	30 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	30	21 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	17	18 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	14	19 DAYS

B. ANTI-TANK

	ROUNDS ON HAND
90-MM HEAT	89
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	2,343
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	78
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	22
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	0
106-MM HEAT	144
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	1,020
3.5" ROCKET	1,126

DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 25 FEB EST (9:00 AM 26 FEB SVN)
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CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

2. ON 26 FEBRUARY KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 192.5 TONS  
AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	3.0	TONS
CLASS II	1.5	TONS
CLASS III	6.0	TONS
CLASS IV	4.5	TONS
CLASS V	170.0	TONS
CLASS VIII	1.25	TONS
1 155-MM HOWITZER	6.25	TONS

DTG: 271322Z FEB 1968

~~SECRET EYES ONLY~~



Wednesday, February 28, 1968  
11:50 a. m.

~~TOP SECRET~~

MR. PRESIDENT:

Herewith the two regular morning reports from Saigon:

1. Khe Sanh - DMZ:

- less shelling; relatively good weather permits effective U.S. air and artillery action;
- high level of re-supply (237 tons);
- weather for next day not too bad.

2. MACV telephone conversation :

- a good operation south of Danang at Tam Ky; serious and, we hope, sustained work to open Highway 1;
- still uncertainty about the actual strength of the enemy units outside of Saigon.

*Walt* Rostow

~~SECRET and TOP SECRET~~ attachment

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter  
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~SECRET~~

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

Wednesday, February 28, 1968, 9:50 AM

49a

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number twenty-four on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 27, 1968.

~~Enemy incoming lessened somewhat yesterday at Khe Sanh~~ compared with previous days as enemy shelling totaled 115 rounds of mortar, 15 rounds of artillery and 10 rounds of rocket. Casualties attributed to the shelling were one killed, 20 wounded (11 evacuated). There were no significant ground contacts reported, however, several significant sightings of enemy activities were made.

At 10:00 AM a resupply helicopter received small arms fire from enemy positioned 1000 meters east of Khe Sanh. ~~At 10:25 AM an air strike was executed southwest of Khe Sanh in Laos, and destroyed one vehicle believed to be an enemy tank.~~ At 11:10 AM Marines sighted eight enemy troops moving towards the Khe Sanh area with a 50 caliber weapon 2 1/2 kilometers east of Hill 881; air strikes were called with undetermined results. At 11:15 AM, an administrative officer directing air strikes 20 kilometers southwest of ~~Khe Sanh reported three large fires around the Co Roc area.~~ A vehicle convoy was spotted at the same location and air strikes were called in with undetermined results.

Throughout the afternoon incoming continued but of a sporadic nature. An artillery mission was fired on a known mortar site three kilometers southwest of Hill 881 resulting in ~~several secondary explosions.~~ An air strike run four kilometers southwest of Hill 881 resulted in ~~nine secondary explosions.~~ At 8:25 PM Marine Listening Post heard movement to the left of its position and received one grenade injuring two Marines. Fire was returned with unknown results. ~~Three additional large secondary explosions were observed four kilometers north of Khe Sanh as a result of a tactical air run.~~ Damages attributed to the day's incoming at Khe Sanh consisted of a helicopter destroyed by an enemy artillery round. Aircraft personnel were not injured.

~~SECRET~~



Elsewhere at friendly installations bordering the DMZ, ~~enemy incoming~~ artillery, rocket and mortar rounds ~~were significant~~. Camp Carroll received five rounds of mortar. At Dong Ha Combat Base, 11 rounds of artillery fell. No damages or casualties were recorded in either instance. Con Thien and Gio Linh received five mortar rounds and 38 artillery rounds respectively, with negative damage and casualties reported. Friendly casualties of two killed, seven wounded (six evacuated) were caused by 115 rounds of artillery and 25 mortar rounds falling at positions held by Marines in the Cua Viet area. The 1st AMTRAC received nine rounds of mixed artillery and mortar causing minor injuries to one individual.

In ground contacts yesterday in Operation Saline, search and destroy operations conducted by elements from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in Mai Xa Thi Village, ~~accounted for six North Vietnamese Army killed~~. In the contact one Marine was killed and three injured. On the Cua Viet, three landing craft convoys were fired upon with automatic weapons fire and mortars. In each instance negative casualties were reported.

There were five COFRAM missions fired expending 27 rounds of 155 MM and one round of 8" ordnance, resulting in ~~26 North Vietnamese Army killed~~.

The high total of ~~415 tactical air sorties were flown in support of Khe Sanh during the period~~. Marine aircraft flew 157 sorties, with Bomb Damage including 10 secondary explosions, six secondary fires, one mortar position destroyed. Three bunkers destroyed, 20 structures destroyed, 20 structures destroyed, and 22 enemy killed. The Air Force flew 153 sorties and the Navy flew 105 sorties. Bomb Damage Assessment included ~~11 large fires (numerous small fires), 39 secondary explosions, 39 road cuts, eight confirmed enemy killed (15 probable)~~. One automatic weapons position destroyed, and two 37 MM guns destroyed. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (33 sorties) were flown in the Niagara area.

Air resupply for the period amounted to ~~237 short tons~~. Fifteen short tons of vehicles, six short tons of mail and three short tons of medical supplies completed the largest resupply tonnage delivery in many weeks. In addition, 68 passengers were landed at Khe Sanh. Resupply sorties totaled 46 on February 27. Fourteen C-130 aircraft completed ten air drops, and three air landed at the airfield. Twenty-eight Marine helicopters delivered passengers and cargo.

For the next 24 hours, a total of 282 tactical air sorties are scheduled in support of Khe Sanh. Eight ARC LIGHT strikes (48 sorties) will be flown in the Niagara area.

Except for a brief period of fog at 9:00 AM on February 27 the ~~weather was good the remainder of the morning and afternoon with partly cloudy skies and good visibilities. The weather remained generally good through the night until 4:00 AM on February 28 when fog formed, reducing visibilities to two miles by 8:00 AM.~~ The forecast for the period next 24-hour period is for ~~cloudy skies with continued visibility restrictions because of fog.~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

2

496

CM-3055-68  
28 Feb 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with General Kerwin, CS, MACV

1. General Westmoreland was out of the office and I talked to General Kerwin, General Westmoreland's Chief of Staff. There is little to report concerning activities in SVN except for some updating of information reported in the Presidential operational/intelligence brief and in General Westmoreland's report #24 on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area.

2. ~~In the action reported west of Tam Ky, a sweep of the areas increased enemy casualties to 200 KIA from the 148 reported earlier while U.S. losses increased from two to three KIA.~~ No change in U.S. wounded. There is no further information on the reported movement of major communist elements to the coastal area between Da Nang and Tam Ky.

3. ~~Action is underway to secure Highway 1 from Ai Van Pass to Phu Loc, and it is estimated that the road should be secure to permit engineer work within the next 72 hours.~~ Concurrently, security operations are underway on Highway 1 between Phu Loc and Hue/Phu Bai; ~~it is estimated that several more days will be required to secure the latter segment fully.~~

4. In II Corps at Dak To there is no change to reports already received here. ~~A friendly long-range patrol ambushed enemy forces 5 kilometers west of Kon Tum City resulting in 20 enemy killed and no friendly casualties.~~

5. Activities in III Corps consisted of indirect fire attacks already reported. Some of the casualties at Bien Hoa resulted from a direct rocket hit on a friendly bunker. I raised a question concerning any changes in location of the 5th and 9th VC Divisions and the 7th NVA Division and their subordinates in the Saigon area. ~~General Kerwin reports no evidence of significant change in location of these units.~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-3-78 Letter  
By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~TOP SECRET~~

6. In IV Corps Area no information was provided beyond that contained in the Presidential operational/intelligence brief.



HAROLD K. JOHNSON  
ACTING CHAIRMAN  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2H

49c

Wednesday, February 28, 1968, 9:50 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number twenty-four on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 27, 1968.

Enemy incoming lessened somewhat yesterday at Khe Sanh compared with previous days as enemy shelling totaled 115 rounds of mortar, 15 rounds of artillery and 10 rounds of rocket. Casualties attributed to the shelling were one killed, 20 wounded (11 evacuated). There were no significant ground contacts reported, however, several significant sightings of enemy activities were made.

At 10:00 AM a resupply helicopter received small arms fire from enemy positioned 1000 meters east of Khe Sanh. At 10:25 AM an air strike was executed southwest of Khe Sanh in Laos, and destroyed one vehicle believed to be an enemy tank. At 11:10 AM Marines sighted eight enemy troops moving towards the Khe Sanh area with a 50 caliber weapon 2 1/2 kilometers east of Hill 881; air strikes were called with undetermined results. At 11:15 AM, an administrative officer directing air strikes 20 kilometers southwest of Khe Sanh reported three large fires around the Co Roc area. A vehicle convoy was spotted at the same location and air strikes were called in with undetermined results.

Throughout the afternoon incoming continued but of a sporadic nature. An artillery mission was fired on a known mortar site three kilometers southwest of Hill 881 resulting in several secondary explosions. An air strike run four kilometers southwest of Hill 881 resulted in nine secondary explosions. At 8:25 PM Marine Listening Post heard movement to the left of its position and received one grenade injuring two Marines. Fire was returned with unknown results. Three additional large secondary explosions were observed four kilometers north of Khe Sanh as a result of a tactical air run. Damages attributed to the day's incoming at Khe Sanh consisted of a helicopter destroyed by an enemy artillery round. Aircraft personnel were not injured.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

OSD letter JAN 3 1979

By

if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

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- 2 -

Elsewhere at friendly installations bordering the DMZ, enemy incoming artillery, rocket and mortar rounds were significant. Camp Carroll received five rounds of mortar. At Dong Ha Combat Base, 11 rounds of artillery fell. No damages or casualties were recorded in either instance. Con Thien and Gio Linh received five mortar rounds and 38 artillery rounds respectively, with negative damage and casualties reported. Friendly casualties of two killed, seven wounded (six evacuated) were caused by 115 rounds of artillery and 25 mortar rounds falling at positions held by Marines in the Cua Viet area. The 1st AMTRAC received nine rounds of mixed artillery and mortar causing minor injuries to one individual.

In ground contacts yesterday in Operation Saline, search and destroy operations conducted by elements from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, in Mai Xa Thi Village, accounted for six North Vietnamese Army killed. In the contact one Marine was killed and three injured. On the Cua Viet, three landing craft convoys were fired upon with automatic weapons fire and mortars. In each instance negative casualties were reported.

There were five COFRAM missions fired expending 27 rounds of 155 MM and one round of 8" ordnance, resulting in 26 North Vietnamese Army killed.

The high total of 415 tactical air sorties were flown in support of Khe Sanh during the period. Marine aircraft flew 157 sorties, with Bomb Damage including 10 secondary explosions, six secondary fires, one mortar position destroyed. Three bunkers destroyed, 20 structures destroyed, 20 structures destroyed, and 22 enemy killed. The Air Force flew 153 sorties and the Navy flew 105 sorties. Bomb Damage Assessment included 11 large fires (numerous small fires), 39 secondary explosions, 39 road cuts, eight confirmed enemy killed (15 probable). One automatic weapons position destroyed, and two 37 MM guns destroyed. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (33 sorties) were flown in the Niagara area.

Air resupply for the period amounted to 237 short tons. Fifteen short tons of vehicles, six short tons of mail and three short tons of medical supplies completed the largest resupply tonnage delivery in many weeks. In addition, 68 passengers were landed at Khe Sanh. Resupply sorties totaled 46 on February 27. Fourteen C-130 aircraft completed ten air drops, and three air landed at the airfield. Twenty-eight Marine helicopters delivered passengers and cargo.

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- 3 -

For the next 24 hours, a total of 282 tactical air sorties are scheduled in support of Khe Sanh. Eight ARC LIGHT strikes (48 sorties) will be flown in the Niagara area.

Except for a brief period of fog at 9:00 AM on February 27 the weather was good the remainder of the morning and afternoon with partly cloudy skies and good visibilities. The weather remained generally good through the night until 4:00 AM on February 28 when fog formed, reducing visibilities to two miles by 8:00 AM. The forecast for the period next 24-hour period is for cloudy skies with continued visibility restrictions because of fog.

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INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~TOP SECRET~~

Thursday, February 29, 1968  
1:45 p.m.

*Recd 1:50p*

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's telephone conversation of today. The best news is that Highway 1 should be open by March 1.

Gen. Johnson suggests a weekly rather than a daily call from Gen. Westmoreland. Given the quality of the reporting we have now organized with the Pentagon, this seems acceptable.

*W. W. Rostow*

Keep daily call 1

Weekly call okay ✓

Call me \_\_\_\_\_

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter

By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~TOP SECRET~~





~~TOP SECRET~~

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM-3065-68  
29 Feb 1968

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-3-78 letter

By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. General Westmoreland had little to report beyond the items contained in his report #25 on the situation in the Khe Sanh-DMZ area. Weather was good in the Khe Sanh-DMZ-Coastal area and effective air strikes were made. He made special mention of the B-52 strikes conducted inside the normal three kilometers restraining or safety line from friendly force locations. He expects to continue to target some strikes within this normally restricted area.

2. The logistic situation in I Corps is improving. Seabees have opened the road from the coast to Highway 1 south of the DMZ that can carry one-way traffic and are continuing to make improvements so that the road will handle two-way traffic. Highway 1 is open for one-way traffic from Hue/Phu Bai to Dong Ha. Engineers are working on the road between Ai Van Pass and Hue/Phu Bai so that it is expected to be open for one-way traffic on 1 March. This will make Highway 1 open from Da Nang to Dong Ha for one-way traffic.

3. The 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division will complete its move from Chu Lai to Hue/Phu Bai during the next seven days. One battalion is already at Hue/Phu Bai.

4. General Rosson will relinquish command of I Field Force Victor (II Corps Area) to General Peers on 1 March. General Rosson will then overlap with General Abrams at MACV FORWARD for a period of 10 days to 2 weeks preparatory to redesignation as a Provisional Corps Headquarters which will control operations north of Ai Van Pass. General Westmoreland has not yet established a specific date for redesignation to a Provisional Corps Headquarters.

5. General Westmoreland reviewed with General Rosson and General Peers rainy season plans for operations in the II Corps Area, on the assumption that no additional troops will be provided in this geographic area.

6. South of Saigon a Vietnamese Ranger battalion seized an enemy ammunition cache. Quantities have not yet been reported. Some indiscriminate mortar fire was received at Can Tho resulting in 20 civilians killed.

~~TOP SECRET~~

24 of copies



~~TOP SECRET~~

7. Three Popular Force outposts on a canal south of Saigon were attacked. It is General Westmoreland's view that enemy attacks are now shifting to Popular Force outposts in view of enemy failures to seize major population centers.

8. One intelligence team was inserted in the A Shau Valley on 27 February and made immediate contact with the enemy. An effort was made on 29 February to reinforce this team, but General Westmoreland did not have any reports of results.

9. The 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, less one battalion, has relocated from the area south and southwest of Da Nang to Binh Dinh Province to replace the remaining brigade of the First Cavalry Division, which will join its parent unit in the Hue area.

10. General Westmoreland stated that activity was comparatively quiet throughout South Vietnam.

11. I recommend that the daily telephone call to General Westmoreland be discontinued. Information obtained in the daily call is not of sufficient importance or urgency to warrant an additional commitment on the overburdened commander in Vietnam. As an alternative, I suggest a weekly call on Saturday morning to obtain a general assessment and an indication of short-term plans for the 7 to 10 days following the call.



HAROLD K. JOHNSON  
CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY  
ACTING FOR CHAIRMAN, JCS

~~TOP SECRET~~

506

ps (a) INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Thursday, February 29, 1968 - 2:30 pm

*Reid 2.45p*

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's Khe Sanh report:

- weather pretty good;
- some effective bombing;
- resupply 252 tons (excellent);
- enemy digging trenches closer and trying to get on out of the B-52 bomb line, which Westy has moved closer to the base.

*W. Rostow*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter

By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

OSD letter JAN 3 1979

Authority

By *if*

NARS, Date 6-25-79

50c

Thursday, February 29, 1968, 10:30 AM

## TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number twenty-five on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 28, 1968.

Favorable weather conditions continued yesterday at Khe Sanh with visibility recorded up to five miles. Light winds and scattered clouds provided optimum flying conditions for fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Logistic resupply of Khe Sanh was executed without difficulty.

For the most part, enemy activity against Khe Sanh again consisted of shelling. A total of 186 rounds of mixed artillery, rockets and mortars were received in the area. Incident to the shelling, artillery rounds struck an ammo bunker, destroying 36 - 106 MM high explosive and 30 - 106 MM armor piercing rounds. Injuries resulting from incoming rounds were nine wounded (minor).

Ground contacts during the reporting period were limited to small unit contacts. At 9:30 AM two rounds of recoilless rifle were received at positions held by the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, injuring one Marine. At 11:10 AM Marines fired a 106 MM mission at an North Vietnamese Army bunker located 800 meters southeast of Khe Sanh resulting in the destruction of the bunker. At 2:00 PM, Marines observed one secondary fire and heard small arms ammo exploding as a controlled air strike destroyed an enemy 50 caliber position one kilometer south of Hill 881. A bridge located three kilometers southeast of Khe Sanh was damaged as a result of an air strike. An air observer controlled air strike on an enemy automatic weapons position about three kilometers southeast of Lang Vei and destroyed the weapon. Another air strike was run on an enemy bunker located about the same location; it was destroyed, one secondary explosion was observed, and one North Vietnamese Army killed. At 4:00 PM an air observer spotting a group of North Vietnamese Army gathered at one kilometer southeast of Khe Sanh, ran an air strike and killed one. An artillery mission fired on three North Vietnamese Army manning an anti-aircraft position, two kilometers northeast of Khe Sanh village, destroying the position and confirming three enemy killed. All available arms were employed to suppress enemy fire and to destroy their positions as 2074 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar were expended during the period in support of the Khe Sanh area.

~~SECRET~~



Small unit contacts and enemy incoming comprised the bulk of significant activity reported in areas neighboring Khe Sanh. Elements at Camp Carroll received 10 rounds of mortar during the period. Gio Linh and A-3 shared 15 and 32 rounds of artillery respectively. No casualties or damages were reported in either instance. The 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines in Operation Saline received 32 rounds of enemy artillery with three additional artillery rounds of enemy artillery falling on the 1st AMTRAC Battalion positions. One Marine received minor injuries resulting from nine artillery rounds falling at Dong Ha. Twelve rounds of enemy artillery fell one kilometer west of C-4 inflicting negative casualties and damage.

Significant ground activity in northern Quang Tri Province included activity in Operation Napoleon as a combat patrol from K Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines engaged an enemy force in a fortified position six kilometers west from the mouth of the Cua Viet. Utilizing available air, naval gunfire and artillery support, they succeeded in destroying five bunkers while killing an equal number of North Vietnamese Army. In the contact one Marine was killed and 16 wounded; activity ended at 5:00 PM. In Operation Kentucky, a small unit from a company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines engaged three North Vietnamese Army manning a machine gun position. When action closed, three North Vietnamese Army were killed and three crew served weapons were captured. No friendly casualties were recorded.

Enemy attacks on convoys continued yesterday as two convoys were fired upon north of Dong Ha, resulting in two sailors killed and 16 wounded. At 12:30 PM yesterday, four kilometers southwest of the rock pile, a helicopter received heavy ground fire and exploded upon contact with the ground. Latest reports indicate that of 23 passengers aboard, there was only one survivor.

There were two COFRAM missions fired as follows: three rounds resulting in five killed. Thirteen rounds were fired on North Vietnamese Army massing in Operation Scotland, good target coverage but with undetermined results.

A total of 329 tactical air sorties were flown in support of Khe Sanh. The Marine aircraft wing flew 129 sorties. Bomb Damage Assessment included one secondary explosion, three secondary fires, one automatic weapons position destroyed and one damaged, and six North Vietnamese Army killed. The Air Force flew 143 sorties and the Navy flew 57, with damage listed as 17 secondary explosions, 20 road cuts, three trucks destroyed, two guns silenced, 16 secondary fires, one automatic weapons position destroyed, 41 military structures destroyed, and two North Vietnamese Army killed (15 probable). B-52, ARC LIGHT, flew eight strikes (48 sorties) in the Niagara area. Headquarters 3rd Marines reports that strikes on one target produced three large secondary explosions. Another target produced continuous secondary explosions for two hours after the strike. Four of the ARC LIGHT strikes scheduled for February 29 are emergency targets and are less than the normal three kilometers from friendly forces. The close-in strikes are proving to be most profitable as the enemy has concentrated forces within the three kilometer sanctuary. Headquarters 3rd Marines reports that the shock waves created by the close-in strikes do not damage structures in friendly areas. On the basis of four close-in drops so far, the risk to personnel is negligible.

Air resupply during the period amounted to 252 short tons. Medical supplies amounted to three short tons. In addition, 112 passengers were landed at Khe Sanh. Air delivery sorties totaled 39 on February 28, sixteen C-130 aircraft completed 10 air drops, and six air-landed at the airfield. One C-123 aircraft landed at the field. Twenty-two Marine helicopters delivered passengers and cargo.

For the next period there are 282 tactical air sorties scheduled in support of the Khe Sanh area. There will be seven ARC LIGHT strikes (42 sorties) flown in the Niagara area.

Shortly after noon on February 28, cloud ceilings raised to 2500 feet and visibilities improved. Clouds became scattered after 2:00 PM and visibility increased to 10 miles. Low clouds and fog again formed after midnight producing ceilings at 1000 feet or less and visibilities of from zero to four miles. These persisted through 9:00 AM February 29. The forecast is for continued cloudy conditions with fog during the morning hours of February 29 with cloudiness decreasing rapidly and visibility improving after noon. Low clouds and fog will form after 10:00 PM and persist into the early morning hours of March 1.

WZW 001  
00 WTE17  
DE WTE 943

FROM: WALT ROSTOW  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
CITE: CAP30629

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority : OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By 18, NARS, Date 6-25-79

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~~SECRET~~

MARCH 2, 1968

HEREWITH KHE SANH -- I CORPS REPORT:

- POOR WEATHER;
- ONLY 99 TONS DELIVERED;
- CONSIDERABLE BUT NOT MAJOR GROUND CONTACTS.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD MARCH 1, 1968.

WEATHER CONDITIONS YESTERDAY AT KHE SANH WERE LESS THAN OPTIMUM AS PROHIBITIVELY LOW CEILING AND FOG OCCURRED THROUGH MUCH OF THE DAY. ALTHOUGH VISUAL FIXED WING SUPPORT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, EFFECTIVE RADAR CONTROL AND COMBAT SKY SPOT SORTIES WERE FLOWN. RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT OFFLOADED ONLY 99 SHORT TONS OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

ALTHOUGH FIXED WING STRIKES WERE AFFECTED BY THE WEATHER, ARTILLERY BATTERIES EXPENDED A TOTAL OF 1562 ROUNDS ON KNOWN AND SUSPECTED ENEMY TARGETS WITH GOOD TARGET COVERAGE. ENEMY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD WAS GENERALLY LIGHT WITH SCATTERED ENEMY NIGHT-TIME MOVEMENTS DETECTED BY ACTIVATED TRIP FLARES. SPECIFICALLY, DURING THE PERIOD, ENEMY ACTIVITIES CONSISTED OF SMALL PROBES AND HARRASSING FIRES. AT 3:00AM YESTERDAY, D COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, HEARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE ITS WIRE; ILLUMINATION WAS FIRED REVEALING FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE RUNNING AWAY. ONE WAS KILLED AS A RESULT OF SMALL ARMS FIRE. IN A LATE REPORT, AS A RESULT OF THE ENEMY PROBE AT POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY THE 37TH ARVN RANGERS, IN ADDITION TO SEVEN ENEMY KILLED BY RANGER ELEMENTS, 60 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE FOUND AT FIRST LIGHT ATTRIBUTED TO ARTILLERY MISSIONS. AT 8:05PM YESTERDAY, THE MARINES OBSERVED TROOPS WITH LIGHTS MOVING FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KHE SANH. ARTILLERY AND MORTAR MISSIONS FIRED WITH GOOD TARGET COVERAGE.

THE PACE OF ENEMY INCOMING SLACKENED YESTERDAY, PARALLELING ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY, AS A COMPARATIVE LOW 157 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS FELL DURING THE PERIOD. INCIDENT TO THE DAY'S SHELLING, TWO FATALITIES WERE RECORDED, WITH INJURIES SUSTAINED BY AN ADDITIONAL 23 MARINES. A C-123 AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED WHEN STRUCK BY INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS.

PRESERVATION COPY



AT BORDERING INSTALLATIONS ALONG THE DMZ, ENEMY INCOMING FOLLOWED ITS NORMAL DISTRIBUTION. TWELVE ROUNDS OF MORTAR FELL AT CAMP CARROL INFLECTING INJURIES TO ONE MARINE. SIX MORTAR ROUNDS FELL AT CA LU. A RECONNAISSANCE TEAM OPERATING 10 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF CAMP CARROLL RECEIVED FIVE ROUNDS OF MORTAR. SIX ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY FELL AT DONG HA. AT A-3 AND GIO LINH, SIX AND 34 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY WERE RECEIVED RESPECTIVELY. THREE MARINES WERE INJURED FROM THE 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES, POSITIONED AT A-3. ARVN UNITS AT A-1 RECEIVED 57 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY. FINALLY, THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES IN OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE, RECEIVED 35 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY ROUNDS. DAMAGES ATTRIBUTED TO THE DAY'S SHELLING WERE MINIMAL.

GROUND CONTACTS IN NORTHEASTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ACCELERATED AS 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, WHILE SWEEPING THROUGH MAI XA THI VILLAGE IN CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE DAY, UTILIZED TANKS, NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR STRIKES; AND KILLED 36 NORTH VIETNAMESE WHILE CAPTURING FOUR INDIVIDUAL AND THREE CREW SERVED WEAPONS. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE LISTED AS 22 KILLED, 87 WOUNDED WITH SEVEN MISSING. IN LAM SON 187, AN ARVN BATTALION (1ST BATTALION, 1ST REGIMENT) ENGAGED A LARGE ENEMY FORCE SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF DONG HA. WHEN CONTACT BROKE, 189 ENEMY BODIES WERE COUNTED WITH 32 INDIVIDUAL AND 14 CREW SERVED WEAPONS CAPTURED. ARVN LOSSES AMOUNTED TO SEVEN KILLED AND 24 WOUNDED.

AT 1159AM YESTERDAY, SIX NVA WERE KILLED EIGHT KILOMETERS NORTH OF GIO LINH IN THE DMZ BY AN ARTILLERY MISSION WHICH ALSO CAUSED SIX SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. AT 1228PM YESTERDAY, A FORWARD OBSERVER WORKING WITH THE 2D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, CONDUCTED A FIRE MISSION ON 50 NORTH VIETNAMESE ASSEMBLED IN THE OPEN 1000 METERS SOUTH OF A-3 RESULTING IN 20 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED. SEVEN ADDITIONAL NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE KILLED YESTERDAY AS A RESULT OF A FIRE MISSION ON NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE OPEN THREE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF A-3. AT 4:45PM, A COMPANY, 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES CAME IN CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF GIO LINH. INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE ONE MARINE WAS KILLED WITH ENEMY CASUALTIES UNKNOWN.

THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WAS RECOVERED FROM THE ENEMY JUNK CAPTURED AT THE MOUTH OF THE CUA VIET: 44 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, 3600 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS, 210 KILOS OF TNT, 120 GRENADES, AND 126 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND AMMUNITION. AT 11:00AM A SAMPAN WAS DISCOVERED BEACHED AT CUA VIET CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES: 112 - 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS, FOUR 75MM RR ROUNDS, 102 - 82MM MORTAR FUSES, 13 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, 630 KILOS OF TNT, 14 RPG-2 ROUNDS, AND 2880 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION. OFF THE DMZ COAST YESTERDAY, THE USS HULL RECEIVED 12 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY. THE CLOSEST ROUND LANDED 12 METERS OFF THE STARBOARD BOW. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE SHIP. FIRE WAS RETURNED AT THE ENEMY POSITION SILENCING THE ENEMY FIRE.

THERE WERE FOUR COFRAM MISSIONS FIRED DURING THE PERIOD, EXPENDING 54 ROUNDS, AND RESULTING IN 20 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED.

PRESERVATION COPY



TACTICAL AIR SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH TOTALLED 219 FOR THE PERIOD. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 83 SORTIES, PRODUCING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND THREE SECONDARY FIRES. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 77 SORTIES AND THE NAVY FLEW 59, REPORTING ONE BRIDGE DESTROYED, THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 17 SECONDARY FIRES, FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED, AND 13 ROAD CUTS. SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (35 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA. PRELIMINARY BOMB DAMAGE REPORTS INDICATE FAVORABLE RESULTS. THREE OF THE STRIKES FLOWN WERE THE CLOSEST TO DATE TO FRIENDLY FORCES (1.2 KILOMETERS).

AIR RESUPPLY FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 99 SHORT TONS. HOWEVER, THE FUEL DROP LANDED OUTSIDE OF THE DROP ZONE AND WAS DESTROYED BY U.S. FORCES. THERE WAS ONE SHORT TON OF VEHICLES. THIRTY-ONE REPLACEMENTS WERE AIR-LANDED. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 14 ON 1 MARCH. SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED FIVE AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD. EIGHT C-123 AIRCRAFT ALSO LANDED AT THE FIELD. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS WERE PREVENTED BY UNFAVORABLE WEATHER. THE GROUND COMMANDER REQUESTED THAT AIR DROPS BE CURTAILED SO MATERIAL RECEIVED DURING PRECEDING DAYS COULD BE HANDLED.

FOR THE NEXT PERIOD, 279 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. A TOTAL SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES (42 SORTIES) ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE NIAGARA AREA.

AS INDICATED, THE WEATHER WORSENERD IN THE KHE SANH AREA. LOW CLOUDS AND FOG PERSISTED THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE DAY AT KHE SANH ON 1 MARCH AS CEILINGS LOWERED UNTIL NOON YESTERDAY WITH VISIBILITIES RESTRICTED FROM ONE-HALF TO TWO MILES. THE BEST CONDITIONS OF THE DAY WERE REPORTED BETWEEN NOON AND 3:00 PM WHEN CEILINGS RANGED FROM 600 TO 2000 FEET AND VISIBILITIES RANGED FROM TWO TO SIX MILES. CONDITIONS BEGAN DROPPING RAPIDLY AFTER 3:00 PM PRODUCING LOW CEILINGS AND VISIBILITIES DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY ON 2 MARCH OF 200 TO 500 FEET AND ONE-QUARTER TO ONE-HALF MILE. THE FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 2 - 3 MARCH IS FOR CONTINUED POOR TO MARGINAL CONDITIONS WITH THE BEST WEATHER OCCURRING AFTER 10:00 AM WHEN CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY ARE EXPECTED TO REACH 1000 FEET AND FOUR MILES. DETERIORATING CONDITIONS WILL AGAIN OCCUR AFTER 10:00 PM WHEN LOW CLOUDS AND FOG WILL FORM AND PERSIST INTO THE MORNING OF 3 MARCH.

1. THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (ASP) STATUS AS OF 8:00 P.M. MARCH 1 IS AS FOLLOWS:

		DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 29 FEB EST (9:00 AM 1 MAR SVN)
CLASS I	(RATIONS)		
	MEAL, COMBAT,		
	INDIVIDUAL	15	13 DAYS
	B RATIONS	10	10 DAYS
CLASS III	(FUEL)		
	AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
	JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3	7.5 DAYS
	MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9.3	8.7 DAYS

DIESEL

10

8.4 DAYS

## CLASS V

(AMMUNITION)

## A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	44	44 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	24	19 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	92	92 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	15	31 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	16	16 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	15	15 DAYS

## B. ANTI-TANK

90-MM HEAT	
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	
106-MM HEAT	
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	
106-MM BEEHIVE	
3.5" ROCKET	
90-MM AP-T	

## ROUNDS ON HAND

1,059
2,343
168
668
0
154
706
909
946
329

DAYS SUPPLY  
ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS  
8:00 PM 29 FEB EST  
(9:00 AM 1 MAR SVN)

## CLASS V

(COFRAM)

105-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

2. ON 1 MARCH KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 99 TONS AS  
FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	29 TONS
CLASS II	2 TONS
CLASS III	16 TONS
CLASS IV	8 TONS
CLASS V	43 TONS
CLASS VII	1 TON

~~SECRET~~

DTG: 021445Z MAR 68

~~SECRET~~

CITE: CV680650  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: AMT1 B0210A

DE MIE 043  
CO MIE11

PRESERVATION COPY



~~SECRET~~

WZ009  
00 WTE16  
DE WTE 955

51

FROM: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM (HAYDEN)  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
CITE: CAP80639

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By if NARS, Date 6-25-79

~~SECRET~~

TEXT OF GENERAL WESTMORLAND'S REPORT.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT ON THE SITUATION  
IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD  
2 MARCH 1968

FOR THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE DAY, ENEMY ACTIVITY AT KHE  
SANH WAS LIMITED TO SMALL PROBES AND COMPARATIVELY LIGHT  
INCOMING. CLOUDY SKIES WITH LOW CEILING LIMITED FIXED WING  
SUPPORT THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE MORNING AND EVENING. AN  
AFTERNOON BREAK IN THE WEATHER PERMITTED LIMITED SUPPORT.  
WHILE FIXED WING SUPPORT WAS AFFECTED BY THE WEATHER,  
FIRE SUPPORT ELEMENTS EXPENDED 3099 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTIL-  
LERY AND MORTAR EARMARKED FOR KNOWN AND SUSPECTED ENEMY  
POSITIONS. OF THE MISSIONS FIRED, 32 PERCENT WERE OBSERVED.  
RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT WERE ABLE TO LAND, OFFLOAD 192.5 SHORT  
TONS OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AND TAKE OFF WITHOUT ENEMY  
INTERFERENCE. GENERALLY, THE PACE OF THE ACTION YESTERDAY  
WAS SLOW WITH NO MATERIAL ENEMY EFFECT ON FRIENDLY  
ACTIVITIES. ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT. A FEW SCAT-  
TERED NVA WERE SPOTTED IN THE OPEN DURING THE DAY. 81MM  
MORTAR MISSIONS WERE FIRED WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS. AN  
OPERATION OF THE 2ND BATTALION, 26TH MARINES OBSERVED 13  
SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS CAUSED BY AIR STRIKES FIVE KILOMETERS  
NORTHWEST OF KHE SANH. AN AIR OBSERVER SIGHTED 6+8 ROCKET  
POSITIONS FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KHE SANH; HE ALSO  
SPOTTED TRAIL, BUNKER AND LIVING AREA 10 KILOMETERS SOUTH  
OF KHE SANH. SUPPORTING ARMS WERE FIRED WITH UNDETERMINED  
RESULTS. AN OPERATION FROM THE 2D BATTALION, 26TH MARINES  
OBSERVED 18 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS RESULTING FROM AN AIR  
STRIKE FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KHE SANH. TWO MARINES  
WERE WOUNDED FROM THE 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION WHEN 13 ROUNDS  
OF 100MM ARTILLERY FELL AT CUA VIET. GROUND CONTACTS WERE  
LIMITED THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD. IN ONE SIGNIFICANT ENCOUNTER,  
A "KILLER TEAM" OF THE 1ST BATTALION 4TH MARINES ENGAGED  
A SMALL ENEMY FORCE, FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF CON THIEN,  
AND KILLED 10 NVA WHILE SUSTAINING NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.  
IN THE VICINITY OF MAI XA THI VILLAR, FINAL SWEEPING OPER-  
ATIONS BY THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES UNCOVERED 45 NVA BODIES  
YESTERDAY WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. THIS  
CONTACT NOW TOTALS 81 NVA KILLED WITH THREE POW'S AND EIGHT  
INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED. ANOTHER CUA VIET TO DONG HA  
CONVOY WAS FIRED UPON YESTERDAY IN THE VICINITY OF ITS  
DESTINATION. MINOR DAMAGE WAS CAUSED FROM THE FOUR OR  
FIVE RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUNDS RECEIVED. GUN SHIPS IN THE AREA  
RENDERED SUPPORT.

2

ONE COFRAM MISSION OF 15 ROUNDS WAS FIRED  
AS PART OF  
NIGHT DEFENSE FIRES FOR THE 37TH ARVN RANGER BATTALION AT  
KHE SANH, WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

A TOTAL OF 296 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN DURING  
THE PERIOD IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE SANH AREA. MARINE AIRCRAFT  
FLEW 89 SORTIES; THE USAF FLEW 127 SORTIES; THE NAVY FLEW 80  
SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE INCLUDED 24 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS,  
SIX SECONDARY FIRES, 20 ROAD CUTS, 11 FORD CUTS, TWO BUNKERS  
DESTROYED, AND 12 ENEMY KILLED. SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES  
(42 SORTIES) WERE SCHEDULED AND FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

FOR THE NEXT PERIOD A TOTAL OF 284 TACTICAL AIR  
SORTIES WILL BE FLOWN IN THE KHE SANH AREA. THE MARINES  
PLAN 44 SORTIES; THE USAF WILL FLY 140 SORTIES; THE NAVY  
PLANS 100 SORTIES. THE MARINES WILL HAVE 16 AIRCRAFT ON CALL,  
AND THE USAF WILL RESERVE 120 SORTIES FOR KHE SANH. SEVEN  
ARC LIGHT STRIKES (42 SORTIES) ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE NIAGARA AREA.

THE MORNING OF 2 MARCH AT KHE SANH WAS CLOUDY WITH  
LIGHT DRIZZLE AND FOG. DURING THE AFTERNOON THE WEATHER  
CONDITIONS IMPROVED WITH THE CLOUD CEILING AT 2500 FEET AND  
GOOD VISIBILITY. BY 6:00 AM THE FOG FORMED AND VISIBILITY WAS  
REDUCED TO ONE-QUARTER MILE BY 11:00 AM. THE REMAINDER  
OF THE EARLY MORNING HOURS REMAINED CLOUDY WITH OCCASIONAL  
DRIZZLE AND FOG RESTRICTING VISIBILITY TO ONE-HALF MILE OR LESS.  
THE FORECAST FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS IS FOR LITTLE CHANGE  
WITH FOG PERSISTING UNTIL 1:00 AM 3 MARCH. FROM 1:00 AM  
TO 8:00 AM VISIBILITY WILL REMAIN GOOD AND THE CLOUD CEILING IS  
FORECAST TO BE 2000 FEET. AFTER 8:00 AM FOG WILL FORM AND REMAIN  
THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING REDUCING VISIBILITIES TO ABOUT ONE-QUARTER  
MILE AFTER 1:00 AM.

THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (ASP)  
STATUS AS OF THE ABOVE TIME IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 1 MAR EST (9:00 AM 2 MAR SVN)
CLASS I (RATIONS)		
MEAL, COMBAT,		
INDIVIDUAL	15	15 DAYS
B RATIONS	9	10 DAYS
CLASS III (FUEL)		
AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3	8.3 YS
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9.3	9.3 DAYS
DIESEL	10	10 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	44	44 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	24	24 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	92	92 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	47	15 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	14	16 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	16	15 DAYS

B. ANTI-TANK

ROUNDS ON HAND

90-MM HEAT	1,059
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	3,313
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	168
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	668
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	0
106-MM HEAT	154
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	706
106-MM BEEHIVE	909
3.5" ROCKET	1,306
90-MM AP-T	329

CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	TS 5	5; 5-6
40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

ON 2 MARCH KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 192.5 TONS AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	39 TONS
CLASS IV	64.5 TONS
CLASS V	87.5 TONS
CLASS VIII	1.5 TONS

DTG: 03/1416Z MAR 68

~~SECRET~~



1968 MAR 4 15 03

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

By 18, NARS, Date 6-25-79

MARCH 4, 1968

8 MAR 4 AM 10:20  
52  
MONDAY

THE ONLY KHE SANH-DMZ REPORT:

- 100 TONS DELIVERED;
- CONTINUED PROBING;
- CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY, BOTH ON THE GROUND AND WITH ARTILLERY FIRE.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-NINE ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH-DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD MARCH 4, 1968.

LIMITED VISIBILITY WITH LOW CEILINGS CONTINUED AT KHE SANH THROUGH MOST OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. DESPITE DISAPPROPRIATE WEATHER CONDITIONS, SEVERAL AIR OBSERVER CONTROLLED MISSIONS WERE EFFECTIVELY EXECUTED. DURING THE PERIOD, ARTILLERY BATTERIES FROM THE 13TH MARINES FIRED 133 ROUNDS EXPENDING 1553 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WITH EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE REPORTED. SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING TO 100 TONS WERE OFFLOADED DURING THE PERIOD AS RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT LANDED AND TOOK OFF WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. GENERALLY, ENEMY ACTIVITY AT KHE SANH DURING THE DAY WAS CONFINED TO RESPONDING TO INCOMING ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS AND HARASSING ROUNDS.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE DURING THE PERIOD, WAS A SIGHTING MADE BY AN AIR OBSERVER AT 11:45 AM, NINE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF HILL 381. AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION WAS OBSERVED IN A COLUMN MOVING EAST. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY MISSIONS RESULTED IN A REPORT THAT 18 NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE KILLED. ELSEWHERE DURING THE DAY, THE MARINES FOUND TWO DIRECTIONAL MINES ON THE LEFT FLANK OF THEIR "D" COMPANY. ALTHOUGH ONE WAS DISARMED, THE OTHER DETONATED AND BLEW ONE SECTION OF THEIR DEFENSIVE WIRE. THIS MORNING "E" COMPANY RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM A LOCATION SOUTHEAST OF THEIR POSITION. ARTILLERY MISSIONS WERE CALLED, SILENCING THE FIRE. AT 1:35 AM THE 37TH AIRBORNE BATTALION REPORTED A PROBE OF THEIR LINES. MORTAR ROUNDS AND ARTILLERY DEFENSIVE FIRES WERE EMPLOYED.

ENEMY INCOMING AT KHE SANH WAS COMPARATIVELY LIGHT CONSISTING OF ONLY 100 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR IN THE AREA. ALTHOUGH NO MATERIEL DAMAGE WAS REPORTED, 10 MARINES WERE WOUNDED. AT ADJACENT INSTALLATIONS, ENEMY SHELLING CONTINUED DURING THE PERIOD, BUT A BLACKENED SPACE OF 34 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND 20 ARTILLERY ROUNDS FELL AT CAMP CARROL WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES SUSTAINED BY ONE MARINE. AT DONG HA COMBAT BASE 16 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND TWO MORTAR ROUNDS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN 4:00 PM AND 4:30 PM. THERE WERE NO INJURIES RECORDED. AT 3D MARINES AT A-3 RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 11 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY WITH NO DAMAGE REPORTED. ARTILLERY ROUNDS WERE FIRED AT THE USS NEWPORT WITH THE NEAREST ROUND IMPACTING 200 YARDS AWAY, CAUSING NO DAMAGE TO THE VESSEL.

AA



IN AN ALL DAY CONTACT A COMPANY OF MARINES SPOTTED 330 WELL EQUIPPED NORTH VIETNAMESE 1500 METERS WEST OF A-3. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY WERE EMPLOYED. WHEN CONTACT CLOSED, 136 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE COUNTED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED (EVACUATED). AT POSITIONS 1500 METERS EAST OF A-3, MARINES ENGAGED A DUG-IN ENEMY FORCE. WITH ARTILLERY PREPARATORY FIRES IN SUPPORT, FRIENDLY UNITS ACCOUNTED FOR 21 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED WITH EIGHT INDIVIDUAL AND ONE CREW SERVED WEAPON CAPTURED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED. WHILE SWEEPING IN THE VICINITY OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE YESTERDAY, THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES FOUND 30 MORE NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES AND THREE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. A LANDING CRAFT STRUCK A MINE 300 METERS SOUTHEAST OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE INJURING THREE MARINES AND DAMAGING THE VEHICLE.

THREE COFRAM MISSIONS WERE FIRED EXPENDING 59 ROUNDS, AND KILLING 9 ENEMY.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 276 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH AREA. THE MARINES FLEW 121 SORTIES, WITH BOMB DAMAGE REPORTED AS ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION, TWO SECONDARY FIRES, ONE AUTOMATIC WEAPON POSITION DESTROYED, AND 19 ENEMY KILLED. THE AIF FORCE FLEW 96 SORTIES AND THE NAVY 79, REPORTING 19 ROAD CUTS, ONE TANK DESTROYED, FOUR GUN POSITIONS DESTROYED, EIGHT ENEMY KILLED, ONE ARMORED VEHICLE DAMAGED, SEVEN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, TEN SECONDARY FIRES, NINE MILITARY STRUCTURES AND TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (30 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH FOR THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 150 SHORT TONS. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 23 FOR 3 MARCH. TEN C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED TEN AIR DROPS. THREE C-125'S COMPLETED TWO AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDED. TEN HELICOPTERS DELIVERED PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT PERIOD WILL TOTAL 270 SORTIES. THERE WILL BE EIGHT B-52 STRIKES (48 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

THE MORNING OF 3 MARCH 1968 AT KHE SANH WAS CLOUDY WITH FOG AND OCCASIONAL LIGHT DRIZZLE. CONDITIONS IMPROVED DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON WITH CEILINGS OF 1500 FEET AND VISIBILITY WHICH RANGED FROM 3 - 5 MILES IN FOG. AFTER 3:00 PM THE WEATHER AGAIN BEGAN TO DETERIORATE REDUCING CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY TO 500 FEET AND 2 1/2 MILES BY 9:00 PM. CONDITIONS WERE FURTHER RESTRICTED AFTER MIDNIGHT AND UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 4 MARCH AS HEAVY FOG REDUCED VISIBILITY TO 1/16 MILE. LITTLE CHANGE IS FORECAST THROUGH 9:00 AM OF 5 MARCH. THE BEST CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED BETWEEN 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM WHEN CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY ARE FORECAST TO BE 1500 FEET AND SIX MILES. AFTER 9:00 PM HEAVY FOG WILL AGAIN REDUCE VISIBILITIES TO BELOW ONE MILE.

1. THE XHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT STATUS  
AS OF 8:00 P.M. MARCH 3 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 2 MAR EST (9:00 AM 3 MAR SVN)
<b>CLASS I (RATIONS)</b>		
NEAL, COMBAT, INDIVIDUAL 3 RATIONS	18 18	15 DAYS 9 DAYS
<b>CLASS III (FUEL)</b>		
AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3	8.3 DAYS
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9	9.3 DAYS
DIESEL	8.7	10 DAYS
<b>CLASS V (AMMUNITION)</b>		
<b>A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE</b>		
60-MM MORTAR	44	44 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	24	24 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	92	92 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	47	47 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	13	14 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	16	16 DAYS
<b>B. ANTI-TANK</b>		
		ROUNDS ON HAND
90-MM HEAT		1,059
66-MM ROCKET (LA4)		3,531
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)		168
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)		568
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)		0
125-MM HEAT		154
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)		706
106-MM BEEHIVE		909
3.5" ROCKET		1,530
90-MM AP-T		329

DTG: 041325Z MAR 68

~~SECRET~~



SECRET  
0101  
E WTE 873

FROM WALT BOSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
SITE CAP80652

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By is NARS, Date 6-25-79

~~SECRET~~

MARCH 4, 1968

HERewith THE DAILY KHE SANH-DMZ REPORT:

-- 160 TONS DELIVERED;

-- COCZINUED PROBING;

-- CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY, BOTH  
ON THE GROUND AND WITH ARTILLERY FIRE.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-NINE ON THE SITUATION  
IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD  
MARCH 3, 1968.

LIMITED VISIBILITY WITH LOW CEILINGS CONTINUED AT KHE  
SANH THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. DESPITE DIS-  
AGREABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS, SEVERAL AIR OBSERVER CONTROLLED  
FIXED WING AIR STRIKES WERE EFFECTIVELY EXECUTED. DURING THE  
DAY ARTILLERY BATTERIES FROM THE 13TH MARINES FIRED 133  
MISSIONS EXPENDING 1553 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WITH EXCELLENT  
TARGET COVERAGE REPORTED. SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING  
TO 160 SHORT TONS WERE OFFLOADED DURING THE PERIOD AS RESUPPLY  
AIRCRAFT LANDED AND TOOK OFF WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. GENERALLY,  
ENEMY ACTIVITY AT KHE SANH DURING THE DAY WAS CONFINED  
TO SPORADIC INCOMING ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS AND HARAS-  
SING PROBES.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE DURING THE PERIOD, WAS A SIGHTING  
MADE BY AN AIR OBSERVER AT 11:45 AM, NINE KILOMETERS  
NORTHWEST OF HILL 881. AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION WAS  
OBSERVED IN A COLUMN MOVING EAST. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY  
MISSIONS RESULTED IN A REPORT THAT 15 NORTH VIETNAMESE  
WERE KILLED. ELSEWHERE DURING THE DAY, THE MARINES FOUND  
TWO DIRECTIONAL MINES ON THE LEFT FLANK OF THEIR "D"  
COMPANY. ALTHOUGH ONE WAS DISARMED, THE OTHER DETONATED  
AND BLEW OPEN A SECTION OF THEIR DEFENSIVE WIRE. THIS  
MORNING "E" COMPANY RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM A  
LOCATION SOUTHEAST OF THEIR POSITION. ARTILLERY MISSIONS  
WERE CALLED, SILENCING THE FIRE. AT 1:23 AM THE 37TH  
ARVN RANGER BATTALION REPORTED A PROBE OF THEIR LINES.  
MORTAR ROUNDS AND ARTILLERY DEFENSIVE FIRES WERE EMPLOYED.



ENEMY INCOMING AT KHE SANH WAS COMPARATIVELY LIGHT YESTERDAYMUS ONLY 122 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR STRUCK IN THE AREA. ALTHOUGH NO MATERIEL DAMAGE WAS REPORTED, 16 MARINES WERE WOUNDED. AT ADJACENT INSTALLATIONS BORDERING THE DME, ENEMY SHELLING CONTINUED DURING THE PERIOD, BUT A SLACKENED PACE OF 34 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND 28 ARTILLERY ROUNDS FELL AT CAMP CARROL WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES SUSTAINED BY ONE MARINE. AT DONG HA COMBAT BASE 16 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY MIXED WITH TWO MORTAR ROUNDS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN NOON AND 400 PM. THERE WERE NO INJURIES RECORDED. THE 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES AT A-3 RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 11 AFTERNOON ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY WITH NO DAMAGE REPORTED. OFFSHORE, SIX ARTILLERY ROUNDS WERE FIRED AT THE USS NEWPORT NEWS WITH THE NEAREST ROUND IMPACTING 200 YARDS AWAY, CAUSING NO DAMAGE TO THE VESSEL.

IN AN ALL DAY CONTACT A COMPANY OF MARINES SPOTTED 300 WELL EQUIPPED NORTH VIETNAMESE 1500 METERS WEST OF A-3. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY WERE EMPLOYED. WHEN CONTACT CLOSED, 136 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE COUNTED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED (EVACUATED). AT POSITIONS 1500 METERS EAST OF A-3, MARINES ENGAGED A DUG-IN ENEMY FORCE. WITH ARTILLERY PREPARATORY FIRES IN SUPPORT, FRIENDLY UNITS ACCOUNTED FOR 21 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED WITH EIGHT INDIVIDUAL AND ONE CREW SERVED WEAPON CAPTURED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED. WHILE SWEEPING IN THE VICINITY OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE YESTERDAY, THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES FOUND 30 MORE NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES AND THREE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. A LANDING CRAFT STRUCK A MINE 300 METERS SOUTHEAST OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE INJURING THREE MARINES AND DAMAGING THE VEHICLE.

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TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT PERIOD WILL TOTAL 270 SORTIES. THERE WILL BE EIGHT B-52 STRIKES (48 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.



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1. THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT STATUS AS OF 8:00 P.M. MARCH 3 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 2 MAR EST (9:00 AM 3 MAR SVN)
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MEAL, COMBAT, INDIVIDUAL 3 RATIONS	18 10	15 DAYS 9 DAYS
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AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3	8.3 DAYS
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<b>CLASS V (AMMUNITION)</b>		
<b>A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE</b>		
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105-MM HOWITZER	13	14 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	16	16 DAYS
<b>B. ANTI-TANK</b>		
		<b>ROUNDS ON HAND</b>
90-MM HEAT		1,259
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)		3,531
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)		168
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)		668
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)		0
126-MM HEAT		154
126-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)		726
126-MM BEEHIVE		929
3.5" ROCKET		1,632
90-MM AP-T		329

DTG: 041325Z MAR.68



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CC

J  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Tuesday, March 5, 1968  
8:25 P.M. *Feb*

Mr. President:

Mr. Rostow has been informed of  
the attached and instructed it be sent  
to you.

White House  
Situation Room



~~TOP SECRET~~  
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM-3088-68  
5 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. I talked to General Westmoreland on the secure telephone at 1840 hours this date. He had no specific items to report other than those appearing in your operational/intelligence daily summary. However, he made several comments which I think you will find of interest:

a. He and General Vien, Chief of the South Vietnamese Joint General Staff, have been traveling around the countryside, looking at the situation and conferring with ARVN and U.S. commanders. He stated that morale is good and everyone is behaving in a steady and confident manner.

b. As he did when I visited him in Saigon, he likened the present situation to the Battle of the Bulge; namely, a maximum effort by the enemy which he could not sustain. General Westmoreland told me that the enemy appears to have lost momentum in many areas; they tend to utilize standoff fire against friendly forces and installations rather than attacking them as they did in early and mid-February.

c. General Westmoreland's logistical situation in northern I Corps is improving steadily. He is thinking of establishing the Provisional Corps in that area under Lieutenant General Rosson in the very near future.

2. Without implying any derogation of General Westmoreland's analogy to the Battle of the Bulge, I believe it is still too early to forecast with any great precision the extent to which the enemy can and will resume a heightened ground effort. Intelligence indicators strongly support the thesis that the enemy is preparing for a major effort in the Hue/Phu Bai area. Moreover, the enemy has the capability to renew attacks against Da Nang and in the central highlands. In other words, despite very heavy losses, I think the enemy still has unexpended resources which he can throw at us. This is not to say that I am not delighted at the slackening in enemy activity; it indicates, I think, that he is having logistical and personnel problems and his plans are being disrupted by our air and ground attacks.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

JCS 10-3-78 letter

By

ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79

*Earle G. Wheeler*

EARLE G. WHEELER

Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DD  
INFORMATION

PS  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Thursday, March 7, 1968 -- 9:30 a.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh yesterday:

- good weather;
- 217 tons delivered;
- 2367 rounds fired;
- antiaircraft fire heavier, bringing down the C-123;
- 343 tactical air sorties to good effect;
- 42 B-52 sorties.

Went Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter  
By 18, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By ip, NARS, Date 6-25-79

55a

Thursday, March 7, 1968, 9:50 AM

## TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-two on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 6, 1968.

Clear skies at Khe Sanh throughout most of the period\* provided optimum flying conditions for fixed and rotary wing aircraft. Logistical and supporting arms efforts were improved throughout the area of operation. A total of 217 short tons of supplies and equipment were offloaded during the period. Fire support elements expended a total of 2367 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery.

Enemy anti-air resistance was heavy yesterday as 13 Marine aircraft were fired on with three receiving hits. At 2:00 PM, a C-123 with 47 passengers and crew members aboard, received fire on let-down for Khe Sanh, attempted to leave the area, and crashed eight miles east of Khe Sanh. Search parties report no signs of life at the scene.

Enemy artillery, rocket and mortar rounds totaled 115 throughout the period. Eighteen Marines were wounded. An incoming rocket struck a parked C-123 aircraft. No injuries were caused, the plane sustained limited damage. Two other aircraft were reported down yesterday. A helicopter was downed by hostile fire while hovering over a position in Ashau Valley. Five of the 11 people aboard have been rescued so far. An Air Force F-105 crashed in Laos yesterday. The pilot ejected safely, and was recovered.

Along the demilitarized zone, enemy activity centered on Operation Kentucky. Elements positioned at C-2 and C-3 received five and 39 rounds of artillery respectively. Five Marines were injured at C-2, no materiel damage was reported. Con Thien received 15 artillery rounds and eight rounds of mortar, with no casualties or damage reported. At A-3, elements of the 3rd Marines received nine artillery rounds. Other 3rd Marine elements northwest of Dong Ha received 30 rounds of rocket and 15 mortar rounds with no casualties or damage reported. Dong Ha combat base in late afternoon received 10 rounds of artillery resulting in two wounded.

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Near Camp Carroll, elements of the 9th Marines received 12 mortar rounds, injuring five Marines.

Ground activity in northern Quang Tri Province was significant. In a sharp contact five kilometers northeast of Con Thien, two companies of the 3rd Marines engaged an unknown size enemy force. Eighty-one North Vietnamese Army were killed. Friendly casualties were 14 killed, 29 wounded. South of the Cua Viet river, a battalion of the 4th Marines in night defensive positions fired on 15 North Vietnamese Army in the open. A search at first light revealed 11 enemy bodies and seven individual weapons. South of the Cua Viet, an artillery mission fired on troops in the open killed four enemy.

Marine aircraft flew 142 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 122, and the Navy 79, for a total of 343 sorties. Bomb damage included 87 secondary explosions, 27 secondary fires, 30 bunkers destroyed, 17 enemy killed, one rocket position damaged, 29 road cuts, three trucks destroyed, and 100 meters of trench destroyed. Seven ARC LIGHT strikes (42 sorties) were flown. Twenty secondary explosions were reported from three of the seven strikes. The B-52 effort was concentrated on targets beyond three kilometers from the Khe Sanh perimeter. Only one strike was flown on a close-in target.

During the period 217 short tons of supplies and 85 passengers were flown into Khe Sanh. Thirty-nine resupply sorties were flown on March 6. Nine C-130's and three C-123's completed air drops, three C-123's landed, and 24 helicopters delivered passengers and cargo.

For the next period, 270 sorties are scheduled to support Khe Sanh. Seven ARC LIGHT strikes (42 sorties) are scheduled.

56  
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INFORMATION

PS  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Friday, March 8, 1968 -- 9:05 a.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh:

- a second consecutive good weather day;
- 3204 rounds friendly artillery; 95 enemy;
- 321 sorties; 42 B-52's;
- 221 tons delivered;
- 5 U.S. wounded.

Walt Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter  
By if, NARS, Date 3-16-78

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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

56a

Friday, March 8, 1968, 8:45 AM

## TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-three on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 7, 1968.

Excellent flying conditions continued at Khe Sanh for the second consecutive day, with seven mile visibility. High ceilings and broken clouds favored fixed and rotary wing aircraft support. Fire support elements, suppressing enemy firing positions and firing on targets of opportunity, expended a total of 3204 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar with excellent target coverage reported. Enemy anti-air incidents continued yesterday with eight aircraft fired on and two receiving hits.

Enemy activity was comparatively light at Khe Sanh. Enemy incoming artillery, rocket and mortar rounds comprised most of the enemy activity. A total of 95 rounds of mixed incoming fell during the 24-hour period, causing injuries to five Marines, four of whom required evacuation. As a result of a rocket round impacting on the airstrip, the runway was temporarily closed to fixed wing aircraft. Repairs were completed by 9:00 AM. At 1:45 PM, an air observer spotted several North Vietnamese Army in bunkers and trenches 17 kilometers north of Khe Sanh. A controlled air strike succeeded in killing five North Vietnamese Army.

Elsewhere within northern Quang Tri Province enemy incoming slackened somewhat, but ground activity increased. A total of 10 rounds of mortar fell near Camp Carroll during the period, causing injuries to five. At 11:00 AM yesterday, the Marines in Napoleon/Saline received 12 rounds of artillery, resulting in two killed and six wounded and evacuated. At 8:30 AM this morning, the Dong Ha combat base received 80 rounds of mixed rocket and artillery resulting in 13 killed and 26 wounded.

Significant ground contacts were recorded yesterday in northern I Corps as the Marines, working in conjunction with ARVN elements, made

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contact with an estimated three company size enemy force, 4 1/2 kilometers north of Dong Ha. Contact continued until 7:00 PM with artillery and air strikes being employed. Initial casualty amounted to 115 killed. Initial <sup>friendly</sup> casualty figures are two killed and 76 wounded.

In a similar all day contact, the Marines engaged an unknown size enemy force on the south bank of the Cua Viet river. Preliminary friendly casualties are 13 killed and 48 wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. Fifteen North Vietnamese Army bodies were discovered in what appears to have been an enemy first aid shelter just north of the Cua Viet river.

At 10:10 AM yesterday, the Marines fired 23 rounds of mortar on a known enemy firing position 1500 meters north of Con Thien, and observed three secondary explosions. An air observer spotted an enemy active mortar position with North Vietnamese Army occupying trenches and bunkers, 1 1/2 kilometers northeast of Con Thien. A controlled air strike on the position resulted in 13 North Vietnamese Army killed. The mortar position was destroyed along with 200 meters of trench line. Another air observer controlled air strike four kilometers north of Camp Carroll destroyed two mortars and killed three North Vietnamese Army. At 3:10 PM, an air observer adjusted a fire mission on enemy mortar positions, at approximately the same location, resulting in the complete destruction of the mortar positions and the killing of four North Vietnamese Army.

One COFRAM mission was fired expending ten rounds with undetermined results.

Marine aircraft flew 134 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 117, and the Navy 70 for a total of 321 sorties. Bomb damage included four gun positions destroyed, 13 secondary explosions, 28 secondary fires, 35 bunkers destroyed, 21 structures destroyed, one mortar position destroyed, six road cuts, and one armored vehicle damaged. Seven ARC LIGHT strikes comprising 42 sorties were flown. Two of the strikes were against close-in targets. From the previous period additional bomb damage includes 14 secondary explosions, 100 foxholes destroyed, and several trench lines destroyed.



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- 3 -

During the period 221.5 short tons of supplies and 21 passengers were flown into Khe Sanh. Fifty-three resupply sorties were flown on March 7. C-130's flew 11 air drops, 42 helicopters air-landed.

For the next 24 hours 268 tactical air sorties are scheduled to support Khe Sanh. Three ARC LIGHT strikes, 18 sorties, are scheduled. The remainder of the force will hit targets in Thua Thien against suspected enemy concentrations. However, the scheduled Thua Thien strikes can be diverted to the Khe Sanh area on two hours notice.

The weather forecast for Khe Sanh is for continued good visibility from late morning on March 8 with skies clear to scattered.

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979 Sunday, March 10, 1968  
By is, NARS, Date 6-25-79

57

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Herewith, General Westmoreland's report number thirty-five on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period ending 8:00 PM, March 9.

Favorable weather conditions prevailed at Khe Sanh during most of the period. Low ceilings lifted by noon, providing improved conditions for air support. Fire support elements expended 2,277 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar with excellent target coverage reported. There were only three anti-air incidents reported.

During the period, enemy action consisted mostly of shelling the Khe Sanh positions. Ground activity was light. During the day 250 rounds of mixed mortar, rocket and artillery fell at Khe Sanh and surrounding areas. Injuries attributed to the shelling were two killed and 15 wounded (four evacuated). A helicopter parked at Khe Sanh received 50 shrapnel holes causing substantial damage to the aircraft and minor injuries to two crew members.

At noon an air observer controlled air strikes on 14 North Vietnamese soldiers in the open southeast of Khe Sanh, resulted in seven enemy killed. About two-hours later an enemy bunker complex was detected 300 meters south of Khe Sanh. An air observer controlled air strike accounted for five enemy killed and the destruction of one bunker. At 6:00 PM elements from the 26th Marines spotted four enemy digging a trench four miles northeast of Hill 881. An 81mm mortar mission, followed by a fixed wing napalm strike accounted for four killed and five secondary explosions. One ARVN Ranger was killed and one wounded yesterday by sniper fire. Fire was returned with undetermined results.

At installations bordering the DMZ, enemy activity was confined mostly to incoming artillery, rocket and mortar rounds. Six Marines were wounded at Camp Carroll as 13 mortar rounds fell during the period. Yesterday evening twelve 140mm rocket rounds struck at Dong Ha injuring nine, one of whom required evacuation.

Ground contacts in northern Quang Tri Province during the reporting period were comparatively light. Yesterday afternoon elements from the 9th Marines spotted seven enemy running east from a position three miles southwest of Camp Carroll. In trying to overtake the seven, the friendly unit came under fire by 60-70 enemy. Artillery and fixed wing strikes were called. Two enemy were confirmed killed. Enemy was observed departing the area carrying



additional casualties. There was no enemy activity reported in Operation Napoleon/Saline and friendly units continued security operations north and south of the Cua Viet River without contact.

Marine aircraft flew 101 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 131 and the Navy 117, for a total of 349 sorties. Bomb damage included four trucks destroyed, 27 road cuts, 17 bunkers destroyed, 22 enemy killed, 37 secondary fires, three automatic weapons positions destroyed, 270 meters of trench destroyed and over 60 secondary explosions. Numerous secondary fires and explosions resulted from strikes on a storage area 20 miles east of Tchepone, Laos. Twenty-six sorties hit the target with explosions still going off as the forward air controller left the area.

There were five ARC LIGHT strikes (29 sorties) during the period. Nine secondary explosions were reported. Four strikes were against close-in targets from 2,200 to 1,100 meters from friendly troops.

During the period 170.5 short tons of supplies and 116 passengers were flown into Khe Sanh. Thirty-eight resupply missions were flown on March 9. C-130's flew eight air drops and three lapses. Three C-123's and 24 Marine helicopters landed at the field.

For the next 24-hours, 307 tactical air sorties are scheduled to support Khe Sanh. The Marines plan 88, the Navy 100 and the Air Force 119. In addition the Air Force will have 120 alert sorties on call. Seven Arc Light strikes (43 sorties) are scheduled.

The weather for March 10 for Khe Sanh is holding well with improving conditions during daylight after night restricted visibility. By 2:00 PM ceilings should be 3,000 feet with visibility to seven miles.

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INFORMATION

135  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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Monday, March 11, 1968 -- 9:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

Khe Sanh-DMZ:

- weather less good;
- enemy fired 250 rounds;
- 178 tons delivered;
- 328 sorties plus 36 B-52's;
- our supply base at Cua Viet, at eastern end of DMZ hit quite badly by lucky enemy round;
- major successful further ARVN fire fight at Dong Ha, 102 enemy killed, 7 captured.

W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter

By JP, NARS, Date 3-16-79

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Monday, March 11, 1968, 8:45 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-six on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 10, 1968.

Low ceilings and drizzle prevailed at Khe Sanh through most of the reporting period, with a consequent decline in the number of air strikes flown. Light enemy anti-air incidents were recorded as only two aircraft were fired on with minor damage reported to one. Enemy activity was confined to incoming mortar, artillery and rocket rounds with 250 rounds of mixed ordnance falling during the day. Two Marines were killed and 15 wounded, four of whom required medical evacuation.

No significant ground contacts were reported. Enemy activities at other installations in northern Quang Tri paralleled activity at Khe Sanh. No ground contacts were reported by Marine units. However, enemy shelling was damaging. The day's incoming included 10 rounds of artillery falling at A-3. Camp Carroll received 10 mortar rounds. No casualties or damage was reported in either instance. Several artillery rounds fell at positions occupied by the 4th Marines at C-3, with no damage or casualties reported.

Beginning at 7:30 AM on March 10, the Dong Ha combat base received 70 rounds of rocket and 82 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery resulting in three killed and 14 wounded, with seven evacuees. At 9:00 AM, one incoming round landed at the landing ship tank ramp on the Cua Viet. The round struck a drum of fuel, spread into the fuel farm causing secondary fires. The fires subsequently set off several rounds of ammunition. Eighty-five percent of the ramp was reported destroyed. Damages included destruction of five trucks, several buildings, two fuel tanks, one artillery weapon, three communications vans, one crane, three fork lifts and a guard tower. The bladder farm was reported 33 percent destroyed. Initial casualties were recorded as one killed and 28 wounded.

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Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

By if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

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ARVN operations in northern Quang Tri Province included a large contact north of Dong Ha. In Operation Lamson 193, elements of the 2nd ARVN Regiment engaged a large size enemy force. Fighting continued throughout the day. Friendly casualty figures were recorded as three killed, 37 wounded. A total of 102 enemy were killed with 20 individual and five crew served weapons captured. Seven North Vietnamese Army prisoners were captured.

Marine aircraft flew 80 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 141, and the Navy 107 for a total of 328 sorties. Bomb damage includes two trucks destroyed, 42 road cuts, 14 secondary explosions, 43 secondary fires, three bunkers and 140 meters of trench destroyed, 13 enemy killed, seven gun positions destroyed, and 14 structures destroyed. There were six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) scheduled into the Niagara area, however, four aircraft went to secondary targets due to targetting equipment and aircraft malfunctions. Three strikes in the Niagara area were classified as close-in targets, ranging from 1300 - 1800 meters from friendly forces.

During the period, 178.5 short tons of supplies were airlifted into Khe Sanh. In addition, 92 passengers were flown in. In all, a total of 18 sorties were flown. Twelve C-130's conducted eleven air drops. Five C-123's conducted three air drops and two landed at the field. One helicopter landed at the field.

For the next period, 307 tactical sorties are scheduled. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) are scheduled.

The morning of March 10 at Khe Sanh was foggy with visibility as low as 1/8 mile at mid-morning. Low clouds remained through the afternoon. After dark, fog formed again restricting visibilities to 1/16 mile by the morning of March 11. The forecast is for continued cloudy weather, with fog during the morning hours and after 8:00 PM at night, lowering visibilities to 1/2 mile after midnight.

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THE JOINT STAFF

THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

11 March 1968  
0500 EST

586

By af NARS, Date 6-25-79

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Supply Status at Khe Sanh as of 8:00 PM EST  
10 Mar (9:00 AM 11 Mar, SVN time)

1. The Khe Sanh Dump and Ammunition Supply Point (ASP)  
status as of the above time is as follows:

	<u>DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND</u>	<u>PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 9 Mar EST (9:00 AM 10 Mar SVN)</u>
<u>CLASS I (Rations)</u>		
Meal, Combat, Individual B Rations	18 9	17 days 8 days
<u>CLASS III (Fuel)</u>		
Aviation Gas (AVGAS)	3	3 days
JP-4 Fuel (Jet Fuel)	10.6	10.6 days
Motor Gasoline (MOGAS)	6.1	7.1 days
Diesel	3.3	4.3 days
<u>CLASS V (Ammunition)</u>		
a. High explosive		
60-mm mortar	43	42 days
81-mm mortar	20	22 days
90-mm (Tank)	108	108 days
4.2" mortar	40	40 days
105-mm howitzer	25	24 days
155-mm howitzer	14	14 days
b. Antitank		
		<u>ROUNDS ON HAND</u>
90-mm HEAT		1,202
66-mm rocket (LAU)		3,381
Antitank mines (M-15)		198
Antitank mines (M-19)		608
Antitank mines (M-21)		0
106-mm HEAT		872
106-mm recoilless rifle (HEP-T)		2,264
3.5" rocket		2,189
90-mm AP-T		329

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DAYS SUPPLY  
ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS  
8:00 PM 9 Mar EST  
(9:00 AM 10 Mar SVN)

c. Antipersonnel

ROUNDS ON HAND

106-mm BEEHIVE


1,027

CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-mm howitzer	5	5 days
155-mm howitzer	5	5 days
40-mm grenade launcher	5	5 days
Hand grenades	10	10 days

2. On 10 March, Khe Sanh was resupplied with 178.5 tons as follows:

CLASS I	13.0 tons
CLASS II	2.0 tons
CLASS III	30.5 tons
CLASS IV	12.5 tons
CLASS V	118.0 tons
Miscellaneous	2.5 tons

  
JAMES A. SHANNON  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

SECDEF  
DEPSECDEF  
CJCS (3)  
DJS (3)  
J-30  
J-31  
J-32  
J-33  
J-4  
AWR  
MCCC  
AFCP  
NPP  
DDO  
ADDO  
CCOC  
PAC DIV  
PAC DESK

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85

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

Tuesday, March 12, 1968  
10:15 a.m.

Rec'd  
11/07

MR. PRESIDENT:

At Khe Sanh:

- poor weather;
- 150 rounds enemy fire;
- 343 sorties plus 36 B-52's;
- 207 tons delivered.

W.A. Rostow

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OSD

letter

JAN 3 1979

Tuesday, March 12, 1968, 9:30 AM

Authority

By ig, NARS, Date 6-25-79

59a

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-seven on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 11, 1968.

Unfavorable weather conditions continued at Khe Sanh during the reporting period, as fog with intermittent drizzle persisted throughout most of the morning and evening hours. Low ceilings lifted somewhat during the afternoon hours, permitting limited fixed wing support. Enemy anti-air incidents were light as only two aircraft were fired on and one was hit with minor damage.

During the period enemy activity was confined to incoming artillery, rocket and mortar rounds. There were no ground contacts reported. A total of 150 rounds of mixed caliber fell on the Khe Sanh area during the day. Casualties attributed to the shelling were three killed and 23 wounded (eight evacuated).

In the DMZ area, enemy shelling comprised the majority of enemy activity with no significant casualties or damage reported. In the vicinity of the Cua Viet river, elements of the 3rd and 4th Marines received 15 mortar rounds and 12 artillery rounds. One Marine was wounded. In ARVN operations, elements of the 2nd Regiment were in heavy contact throughout most of the day, north of Dong Ha. Initial friendly casualties are recorded as 22 killed and 65 wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. Sweep operations continue.

There was one COFRAM mission of six rounds fired with undetermined results.

Marine aircraft flew 123 sorties, the Air Force 134, the Navy 86, for a total of 343 sorties. Bomb damage assessment included 14 road cuts, three automatic weapons positions destroyed, one rocket position destroyed, one bridge destroyed, two bunkers destroyed, eight secondary explosions, 19 secondary fires, and 15 enemy killed by air. There were six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) scheduled, however, three aircraft went to secondary targets due to beacon malfunction. Three strikes were within 1300 - 2800 meters of friendly troops.

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A total of 207 short tons of supplies were airlifted into the Khe Sanh area during the period. In addition, one short ton of mail and 93 passengers were lifted into the base. A total of 28 resupply sorties were flown, eleven air drops by C-130 and two by C-123, and 15 sorties by Marine helicopters.

For the next period, 308 tactical air sorties are scheduled. In addition, the Air Force will have 120 alert sorties, and the Marines will have 16 aircraft on call. Five ARC LIGHT strikes (30 sorties) are scheduled.

The weather forecast for March 12 is for improving conditions to 800 foot ceilings and two mile visibility by mid-morning, and to 2500 to 500 foot ceilings and 7 - 10 miles visibility by early afternoon. Conditions will again deteriorate after sunset, reducing ceilings and visibility to less than 500 feet and one mile by midnight.

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INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Saturday, March 16, 1968 - 9:00 am

Mr. President:

Weather luck holds at Khe Sanh:

- 234 incoming rounds;
- 351 friendly sorties plus  
36 B-52's;
- <sup>RECON</sup> recce and small attacks on A Shau  
Valley, of which we shall have  
more;
- 227 tons delivered.

*W. Rostow*  
Rostow

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter  
By sp, NARS, Date 3-16-79



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DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

By isp, NARS, Date 4-19-78

Saturday, March 16, 1968, 8:30 AM

60a

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Herewith, General Westmoreland's report number forty-one on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period ending 8:00 PM, 15 March.

Khe Sanh had clear weather after early morning haze lifted after 11:00 am. Prior to that time, Air Force resupply operations had been hampered.

During the period, Khe Sanh received 30 rounds of artillery, 14 rounds of rocket and 190 rounds of mortar fire, for a total of 234 rounds. The incoming fire resulted in one Marine killed and 13 wounded (three evacuated). Enemy indirect fire attacks marked the only activity at the base, as no ground contacts were reported. There was no change in either the disposition of Marines in defense at Khe Sanh, or in the enemy situation.

Elsewhere along the DMZ, contact was light with one exception. Dong Ha received twenty-five 140mm rocket rounds which wounded 13 personnel. Two required medical evacuation. Total casualty figures for the 3rd Marine Division area for the period were, two Marines killed, 39 wounded (16 evacuated), 14 enemy killed.

In tactical air operations, 351 sorties were flown. Marines flew 130, US Air Force 133, and the Navy 88. Bomb damage assessment included 53 secondary fires, 19 road cuts, 45 bunkers destroyed, three trucks destroyed, 18 secondary explosions, 25 enemy killed by air and one mortar position destroyed.

In the A Shau Valley, US Air Force flew four reconnaissance sorties and seven tactical strike sorties. Bomb damage assessment included three secondary explosions and 10 bunkers destroyed.

Six Arc Light strikes (36 sorties) were scheduled into the Niagara Area. One strike, within 1,200 meters of friendly troops, with fifteen secondary explosions reported.

Aerial resupply for the period totaled 227 short tons. One hundred and forty-two passenger replacements were landed at the field. Throughout the day, 49 sorties were flown. Fixed wing aircraft conducted 16 airdrops. Marine helicopters flew the remaining 33 sorties, delivering passengers and cargo.

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Three hundred and sixteen tactical air sorties were scheduled for the next 24-hour period, with the Marines planning 88, Air Force 128 and the Navy 100. Marines will maintain their 16 aircraft on call and the Air Force will have 120 alert sorties available on call. Six Arc Light strikes (36 sorties) are also scheduled.

The forecast for 16 March is for scattered clouds and good visibility by 11:00 am. Ceilings and visibility will again lower by mid-night and fog will reduce conditions to marginal by early morning on the seventeenth.



ADM MOORE CWO WASH DC  
ZCZCZCZC CHAPMAN CMC WASH DC  
Z 161137Z ZYH ZFP-3  
FM GENERAL WESTMORELAND COMUSMACV  
TO GENERAL WHEELER CJCS  
ADMIRAL SHARP CINCPAC  
INFO AMBASSADOR BUNKER  
ZEM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)  
By ip, NARS, Date 4-19-78

606

~~SECRET~~ MAC 03649 EYES ONLY

SUBJ: KHE SANH REPORT (U)

1. (U) THIS IS REPORT NUMBER FORTY-ONE ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA FOR THE PERIOD 150900H TO 160900H MARCH 1968.

2. (S) KHE SANH HAD CLEAR WEATHER AFTER EARLY MORNING HAZE LIFTED AFTER 1100 HOURS. PRIOR TO THAT TIME, AIRFORCE RESUPPLY OPERATIONS HAD BEEN HAMPERED. DURING THE PERIOD, KHE SANH RECEIVED 30 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY, 14 ROUNDS OF ROCKET AND 190 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE, FOR A TOTAL OF 234 ROUNDS. THE INCOMING FIRE RESULTED IN ONE MARINE KILLED AND 13 WOUNDED (THREE EVACUATED). ENEMY INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS MARKED THE ONLY ACTIVITY AT THE BASE, AS NO GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED. THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN EITHER THE DISPOSITION OF MARINES IN DEFENSE AT KHE SANH, OR IN THE ENEMY SITUATION. ELSEWHERE ALONG THE DMZ, CONTACT WAS LIGHT WITH ONE EXCEPTION. DONG HA RECEIVED TWENTY-FIVE 140MM ROCKET ROUNDS WHICH WOUNDED 13 PERSONNEL. TWO REQUIRED MEDICAL EVACUATION. TOTAL CASUALTY FIGURES FOR THE 3D MARINE DIVISION AREA FOR THE PERIOD WERE, TWO MARINES KILLED, 39 WOUNDED (16 EVACUATED), 14 ENEMY KILLED.

3. (S) IN TACTICAL AIR OPERATIONS, 351 SORTIES WERE FLOWN. MARINES FLEW 130, USAF 133, AND USN 88. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED 53 SECONDARY FIRES 19 ROAD CUTS, 45 BUNKERS DESTROYED, THREE TRUCKS DESTROYED, 18 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 25 ENEMY KILLED BY AIR AND ONE MORTAR POSITION DESTROYED. IN THE A SHAU VALLEY, USAF FLEW FOUR RECCO SORTIES AND SEVEN TACTICAL STRIKE SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND 10 BUNKERS DESTROYED. SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) WERE SCHEDULED INTO THE NIAGARA AREA. THREE SORTIES WERE DIVERTED TO A SECONDARY TARGET DUE TO BEACON MALFUNCTION. ONE STRIKE, WITHIN 1200 METERS OF FRIENDLY TROOPS, WITH FIFTEEN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED.

4. (S) AERIAL RESUPPLY FOR THE PERIOD TOTALED 227 SHORT TONS. CLASS I AMOUNTED TO 45 SHORT TONS. CLASS I WAS SIX SHORT TONS, CLASS III NINE SHORT TONS, CLASS IV FOUR SHORT TONS, CLASS V 155.5 SHORT TONS. IN ADDITION, THREE SHORT TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND 4.5 SHORT TONS OF MAIL WERE DELIVERED. 142 PASSENGER REPLACEMENTS WERE LANDED AT THE FIELD. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, 49 SORTIES WERE FLOWN. FIXED WING AIRCRAFT CONDUCTED 16 AIRDROPS. MARINE HELICOPTERS FLEW THE REMAINING 33 SORTIES, DELIVERING PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

5. (S) 315 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 24 HOUR PERIOD, WITH THE MARINES PLANNING 85, USAF 123 AND USN 100. MARINES WILL MAINTAIN THEIR 16 AIRCRAFT ON CALL AND THE USAF WILL HAVE 120 ALERT SORTIES AVAILABLE ON CALL. SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) ARE SCHEDULED.

6. (U) THE FORECAST FOR 16 MARCH IS FOR SCATTERED CLOUDS AND GOOD VISIBILITY BY 1100H. CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY WILL AGAIN LOWER BY MIDNIGHT AND FOG WILL REDUCE CONDITIONS TO MARGINAL BY EARLY MORNING ON THE SEVENTEENTH.

GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

550



~~SECRET~~

REF 221  
 DE WTE1  
 DE WTE 1100

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
 TO THE PRESIDENT  
 SITE CAPS0703

DECLASSIFIED

USD letter JAN 3 1979

Authority  
 By is, NARS, Date 6-25-79

62

~~SECRET~~

HEREWITH WESTY'S KHE SANH REPORT.

-- WEATHER AND FORECAST REMAIN GOOD;

-- 500 INCOMING;

-- PROBING ATTACK REPULSED; NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES;

-- 310 FRIENDLY SORTIES PLUS 42 B-52'S;

-- 266 TONS DELIVERED.

SUBJ: (U) THIS IS REPORT NUMBER FORTY-THREE ON THE SITUATION  
 IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA FOR THE 24 HOUR PERIOD 18 MARCH.

YESTERDAY AND LAST NIGHT THE ENEMY INTENSIFIED HIS EFFORTS  
 AGAINST THE KHE SANH BASE WITH INCREASED INCOMING FIRE AND A  
 PRE-DAWN GROUND ATTACK. THE INCOMING FIRE FOR THE PERIOD  
 TOTALLED 500 ROUNDS AS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS DAYS TOTAL OF  
 435. NINETEEN MEN WERE WOUNDED AS A RESULT OF THE INCOMING,  
 FOUR REQUIRING MEDICAL EVACUATION.

THE GROUND ATTACK BY AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION OCCURRED AT  
 0145PM ON 18 MARCH, AGAINST THE 37TH ARVN RANGER POSITION AT THE  
 EASTERN PERIMETER. THE ARVN FOUGHT DETERMINEDLY AND THE ATTACK  
 WAS REPELLED AT 5:20 PM. THE WIRE WAS NOT PENETRATED. THERE  
 WERE NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES; 2 ENEMY WERE REPORTED KILLED.

AS FORECAST, THE WEATHER REMAINED FAVORABLE THROUGH MUCH OF  
 THE DAY, ALLOWING UNRESTRICTED AIR ACTIVITY. THREE HUNDRED TEN  
 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN. ALTHOUGH THIS IS A DECREASE FROM  
 THE PREVIOUS PERIOD, BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT DISCLOSED OVER 43  
 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 28 SECONDARY FIRES AND NUMEROUS STRUCTURES  
 AND WEAPONS POSITIONS DESTROYED. SEVEN ARC LIGHT MISSIONS (42  
 SORTIES) STRUCK THE NIAGARA AREA. SEVEN AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED  
 DUE TO EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION. THREE OF THE STRIKES REPORTED A  
 TOTAL OF 12 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES AND 316  
 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS. THERE  
 IS NO CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF ALERT SORTIES OR AIRCRAFT ON CALL.

IN OTHER AIR ACTIVITY, 45 RESUPPLY SORTIES, LIFTED 256.5

KK



EIGHT TONS OF SUPPLIES AND MAIL INTO KHE SANH. NINETY-FIVE REPLACEMENTS WERE LANDED AT THE FIELD.

5. ACTIVITY IN THE REST OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE WAS VERY LIGHT COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS PERIOD. A TOTAL OF 35 ROUNDS OF MIXED AMMUNITION WAS RECEIVED COMPARED TO 658 ROUNDS YESTERDAY. TOTAL U.S. CASUALTIES IN THE 3D MARINE DIVISION AREA WERE ONE KILLED, 12 WOUNDED (FOUR EVACUATED). ENEMY: SEVEN KILLED.

6. THE WEATHER FORECAST IS FOR FAVORABLE WEATHER TO CONTINUE DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS, WITH SOMEWHAT REDUCED VISIBILITY AND CEILINGS IN THE EARLY MORNING.

1. THE KHE SANH JUMPUAND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (ASP) STATUS AS OF 3:02 PM MARCH 17 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 3:02 PM 16 MAR EST (9:02 AM 17 MAR SVN)
--	------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------

CLASS I (RATIONS)

MEAL, COMBAT, INDIVIDUAL	21	22 DAYS
3 RATIONS	8	8 DAYS

CLASS III (FUEL)

AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	10.5	10.6 DAYS
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	11.6	10.5 DAYS
DIESEL	4.4	4.4 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	54	55 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	30	23 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	131	104 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	31	31 DAYS
125-MM HOWITZER	20	20 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	18	20 DAYS

B. ANTITANK

ROUNDS ON HAND

90-MM AP-T	329
90-MM HEAT	1,202
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	3,475
ANTITANK MINES (M-15)	336
ANTITANK MINES (M-19)	469
ANTITANK MINES (M-21)	0
125-MM HEAT	1,123
106-MM RECCILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	JS 2,165
3.5" ROCKET	SS 2,222

BYGE 101

C. ANTIPERSONNEL

12MM BEEHIVE

1,517

PAGE 2 OF 2

CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
42-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

2. ON 17 MARCH, KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 266.3 TONS AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	37 TONS
CLASS III	41 TONS
CLASS IV	18.5 TONS
CLASS V	159 TONS
MISCELLANEOUS	11 TONS

19: 181347Z MAR. 68

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351  
FORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Thursday, March 21, 1968 -- 10:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh:

- Rec'd  
10:45a
- weather good;
  - 177 enemy rounds;
  - 87 friendly artillery missions;
  - 203 tactical sorties plus 6 B-52's;
  - 265 tons delivered;
  - from other information, indications  
some enemy forces pulling back from  
Khe Sanh, others, perhaps, moving  
east to Quang Tri-Hue area.

W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority DSD 10-18-78 letter

By ib, NARS, Date 3-16-79

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

By if NARS, Date 6-25-79

Thursday, March 21, 1968, 8:50 a.m.

21  
63a

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number forty-six on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area for the 24-hour period of March 20, 1968.

The level and character of activity at Khe Sanh has not changed over the past three days. The enemy continues to limit his efforts to indirect fire attacks. During this period, 177 incoming rounds were recorded. The majority of these were from enemy mortars (150 rounds) and twenty-one Marines were wounded. Five men required medical evacuation. Eighty-seven artillery missions were fired in support of the base; thirty-three were observed missions. Five enemy were reported killed by artillery or tactical air.

Clear weather prevailed for most of the day and 203 tactical air sorties were flown. Bomb damage assessment in the Niagara area included two secondary explosions, nine bunkers and one gun position destroyed, two road cuts and sixteen secondary fires. Unseasonably good weather in the north uncovered lucrative targets and some Niagara sorties were diverted to the northern route packages.

There were six ARC LIGHT strikes in the Khe Sanh area during the period, four strikes within 1000 - 1500 meters of friendly troops. One mission reported eleven secondary explosions. Forty-three fixed wing and helicopter sorties lifted 265.5 short tons of supplies, and 130 replacements into the base.

During the next 24 hours, 298 tactical air sorties and six ARC LIGHT strikes are scheduled in support of Khe Sanh. Weather predictions are fair to good, with marginal conditions early in the morning, clearing up during the day. Rain may reduce conditions to 2,000 feet and three miles visibility after 2:00 p.m.

Along the DMZ, 55 incoming rounds were received with no significant casualties or damage reported. Elsewhere in Quang Tri Province, contact was light. The total casualties in the 3rd Marine Division area for the period were twenty-six Marines wounded (six evacuated), thirteen enemy killed and two individual weapons captured.

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

A Shau aerial surveillance on the twentieth consisted of one early morning and one photo recon mission. The good weather prediction was wrong. One ground reconnaissance team was extracted and one team failed to insert due to enemy fire. A team report from a mission near the A Luoi Airstrip contains locations of suspected caves and tunnels in the vicinity, a possible truck park and bivouac area and sightings of truck traffic on Route 548.

~~SECRET~~

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1968 MAR 22 12 30

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DE YSEKRA 17 0821204  
O 221200Z ZYH ZFF-5  
FM GEN WHEELER CJCS WASH DC  
INFO MR ROSTON WHITE HOUSE WASH DC  
MR RUSK STATE DEPT WASH DC  
MR HELMS CIA  
GEN JOHNSON CSA WASH DC  
GEN MCCONNELL CSAF WASH DC  
ADM MOORE CNO WASH DC  
ZEN/GEN CHAPMAN CMC WASH DC  
Z 221135Z ZYH ZFF-3  
FM GENERAL ABRAHAM DEPOHUSKACV  
TO GENERAL WHEELER CJCS  
ADMIRAL SHARP CINCPAC  
INFO AMBASSADOR BUNKER  
GENERAL WESTMORELAND COMUSMACV  
ZEN

90

DECLASSIFIED

Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

By msb, NARS, Date 3-31-78

~~SECRET~~ MAC 3657 EYES ONLY

13J: KHE SANH REPORT (U)

1. (U) THIS IS REPORT NUMBER FORTY-SEVEN ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ/A SHAU AREA FOR THE PERIOD 210900H TO 220900H MARCH 1968.

2. (S) THE AMOUNT OF INCOMING FIRE DECREASED FROM YESTERDAY AS 111 ROUNDS OF MIXED FIRE FELL ON THE COMBAT BASE. SEVENTY-ONE ROUNDS WERE ARTILLERY, A CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY, WHEN THE BULK OF THE FIRE WAS FROM MORTARS. TWENTY-SEVEN MARINES WERE WOUNDED; 18 REQUIRED EVACUATION. U.S. ARTILLERY FIRED 2830 ROUNDS IN 106 MISSIONS; THIRTY-SIX OBSERVED. NO COFRAM AMMUNITION WAS EXPENDED.

3. (S) CLEAR WEATHER PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE NIAGARA AO FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE DAY, AND 279 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED 35 ENEMY KILLED BY AO DIRECTED STRIKES, ONE AUTOMATIC WEAPON POSITION DESTROYED, ONE PROBABLY DESTROYED, AND SIX SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

4. (S) SIX B-52 STRIKES WERE SCHEDULED INTO THE KHE SANH AREA. ONE STRIKE WAS SCHEDULED AS AN EMERGENCY TARGET, 2500 METERS FROM FRIENDLY TROOPS. ARC LIGHT DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORTED 13 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

5. (S) DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS, 289 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES AND SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES ARE SCHEDULED. AN ADDITIONAL 422 PRE-PLANNED TAC AIR SORTIES CAN BE DIVERTED INTO THE KHE SANH AREA IF REQUIRED.

6. (S) UNHAMPERED BY WEATHER AND ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, AIR FORCE FIXED WING AND MARINE HELICOPTERS MOVED 214 SHORT TONS OF SUPPLIES AND 49 REPLACEMENTS INTO KHE SANH. DURING THE SAME PERIOD SIX TONS OF AIR DELIVERED EQUIPMENT

MM



WAS BACKLOADED.

7. (S) THE WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN THE SAME OVER THE NEXT 24 HOURS, WITH THUNDERSHOWER ACTIVITY REDUCING VISIBILITY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

8. (S) ALONG THE DMZ, LIGHT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED NEAR CAMP CARROLL. ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH MARINES ENGAGED SMALL ENEMY UNITS IN SPORADIC ACTION. SIX ENEMY WERE KILLED, WITHOUT FRIENDLY LOSS. TOTAL CASUALTIES IN THE 3D MARINE DIVISION AREA FOR THE PERIOD WERE U.S. 32 WOUNDED (20 EVACUATED); 43 ENEMY KILLED, ONE DETAINED, ONE INDIVIDUAL WEAPON CAPTURED. ELSEWHERE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, NO MAJOR GROUND ACTIONS TOOK PLACE, SOME LIGHT CASUALTIES OCCURRED FROM SPORADIC INCOMING MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE.

9. (S) TWO RECONNAISSANCE TEAMS WENT INTO THE A SHAU VALLEY THIS MORNING, THE 22D. ONE AT YD3703 WILL MOVE NORTH. ONE SOUTH OF THE RAO LAO RIVER AT YC3691 WILL RECON TO NORTH AND EAST. AN EARLY MORNING SLAR RUN BY 131ST AVN CO AND ONE TACAIR PHOTO MISSION COVERED 80 PERCENT OF THE TARGET AREA. SIX AA/AW SITES WERE FOUND TO BE OCCUPIED.  
GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS  
520

NNNN

March 24, 1968

8:55A.M.

65

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Khe Sanh report

1. This is report number forty-nine on the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area, for the period 23 March.

2. Enemy indirect fire at Khe Sanh was greater than originally reported yesterday. An update report indicates that an additional 500 rounds of mixed artillery, mortar and rocket fire fell between midnight and 6:00 A.M. on 23 March. Thus the enemy surge during the night of 22-23 March was in excess of 1100 rounds. After daylight, incoming fire slackened and fell into the previous pattern; approximately 130 rounds struck Khe Sanh during this period. Thirty-nine Marines were wounded, seventeen required evacuation. Friendly artillery fired 2056 rounds in 155 fire missions. No COFRAM ammunition was expended at Khe Sanh.

3. Visibility remained good throughout the reporting period, except during a thundershower between 9:00 and 10:00 P.M. Scattered rain showers are forecast for the afternoon of 24 March. Early morning fog is predicted for 25 March reducing ceiling to less than 1000 feet and visibility to less than two miles.

4. Ten Arc Light strikes, with 60 aircraft, were flown in the NIAGARA area. Four were scheduled as emergency strikes, the nearest being 1100 meters from friendly positions. Tactical air support totaled 408 sorties during the period. Tactical air bomb damage assessment included six enemy killed and seven probably killed, eight secondary explosions, 13 secondary fires, 28 road cuts and three trucks destroyed.

5. Tomorrow, nine Arc Light strikes, totaling 54 sorties, and 327 tactical air sorties are planned.

6. Resupply of the base amounted to 224 short tons of all classes. Twenty-two passenger replacements were landed. Seventeen US Air Force aircraft and 24 Marine Corps helicopters flew 41 resupply sorties.

7. Although there were no significant ground contacts during the period, several attacks by fire were reported. The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines received 26 rounds of 85mm artillery six kilometers west of Gio Linh. Four Marines were wounded. The enemy launched 11 rounds of 122mm rocket fire against the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines at the Rockpile, killing one Marine and wounding seven. Near Cam Lo, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines had five men wounded by ten rounds of incoming artillery. Three kilometers east of Camp Carroll, friendly artillery engaged approximately enemy in the open. Twenty-seven rounds of 105 mm COFRAM were fired with good target coverage. Third Marine Division casualties for the period were two Marines killed, 60 wounded with 32 evacuated. There were fourteen confirmed enemy casualties.

NN



8. Aerial surveillance of the A Shau continued with one infrared, three side-looking airborne radar and one morning photo mission flown. Eighty percent of the target area was covered. No vehicular activity was noted but numerous anti-aircraft positions continue to be occupied.

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3/25/68  
12-45

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Tuesday, March 26, 1968  
12:45 p.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh-DMZ-A Shau:

- 25 rounds enemy incoming;
- 252 tactical support sorties  
plus 47 B-52's;
- 150.5 tons resupply, hampered  
by low ceilings and high winds;
- heavy contact east of Quang Tri  
City;
- weather poor.

W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter  
By if, NARS, Date 3-16-79



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~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

Tuesday, March 26, 1968, 9:15 a. m.

By if NARS, Date 6-25-79

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number fifty-one on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area for the 24-hour period of March 25, 1968.

Resupply was hampered by low ceilings and high winds, which prevented aircraft from landing. Input consisted of ten air drops by C-130 aircraft totaling 150.5 short tons. Supplies remain at a satisfactory level with 28 days of rations and 21 or more days of large caliber ammunition on hand.

Low clouds and poor visibility are predicted for the remainder of today and the morning of March 27.

For the second day, enemy incoming fire decreased as a total of 25 rounds were received at Khe Sanh; 12 artillery, 10 mortar and three rocket. There was no ground action in the vicinity. The incoming rounds wounded 17 Marines; 13 were evacuated.

South of the DMZ, seven kilometers southeast of Cam Lo, a third Marine Division Reconnaissance Team observed approximately 250 North Vietnamese Army. Artillery was employed, killing 25 of the enemy.

Early in the morning of March 25, the 1st Air Cavalry Division established heavy contact six kilometers east of Quang Tri City. The enemy force was later identified by a detainee as elements of the K14 Battalion, 5th North Vietnamese Regiment. Gunships supported and the contact was broken at 7:00 p. m. Fifty-two of the enemy were killed. U.S. losses were 10 killed and 26 wounded.

Two hundred forty two tactical air sorties were flown in the Niagara area. Seven enemy were killed. Seven secondary explosions, 14 secondary fires, nine bunkers and one mortar position destroyed, and 20 road cuts and two ford cuts were credited to tactical air. Tactical air sorties planned for tomorrow total 314.

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- 2 -

Eight ARC LIGHT strikes, of 47 sorties, were scheduled. One aircraft was diverted to a secondary target. ~~Nine missions~~ are planned for March 26.

One wire tap mission near Route 547 in A Shau was unsuccessful due to heavy enemy contact. Two Reconnaissance Teams remain in the valley. One Team called in tactical air to destroy an enemy artillery cache of approximately 150 rounds. No unusual returns were reported from one photo and two armed reconnaissance missions.

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FM GEN WHEELER CJCS WASH DC  
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MR RUSK STATE DEPT WASH DC  
MR HELMS CIA  
GEN JOHNSON CSA WASH DC  
GEN MCCONNELL CSAF WASH DC  
ADM MOORER CNO WASH DC  
ZEN/GEN CHAPMAN CMC WASH DC  
Z 291216Z ZYH ZFF-3  
FM GENERAL WEST ORELAND COMUSMACV  
TO GENERAL WHEELER CJCS  
ADMIRAL SHARP CINCPAC  
INFO AMBASSADOR BUNKER  
ZNY

~~SECRET~~ MAC 4235 EYES ONLY

SUBJ: KHE SANH REPORT (U)

1. (U) THIS IS REPORT NUMBER FIFTY-FOUR ON THE KHE SANH/DNZ/A SHAU VALLEY AREA, FOR THE PERIOD 280900-290900 MARCH 1968.

2. (U) WEATHER CONDITIONS AT KHE SANH REMAINED GOOD THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD. SKIES WERE GENERALLY CLEAR WITH OCCASIONAL SCATTERED LOW, MIDDLE AND HIGH CLOUDS. THE FORECAST FOR THE NEXT 24 HOUR PERIOD IS FOR CONTINUED GOOD WEATHER WITH SCATTERED CLOUDINESS. ISOLATED THUNDERSHOWERS ARE PREDICTED IN THE VICINITY OF KHE SANH THIS AFTERNOON. VISIBILITY IS EXPECTED TO BE RESTRICTED BY HAZE TO SEVEN MILES.

3. (S) AERIAL RESUPPLY INCREASED OVER THE LEVEL OF THE PAST FEW DAYS AS A TOTAL OF 217 SHORT TONS WERE DELIVERED. FIFTEEN AIRDROPS WERE CONDUCTED. FIVE CH-53 AND 32 CH-46 HELICOPTERS DELIVERED PASSENGERS AND CARGO. THERE WERE 73 REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL DELIVERED.

4. (S) KHE SANH RECEIVED 100 ARTILLERY, 50 ROCKET, AND 33 MORTAR ROUNDS, A TOTAL OF 183 ROUNDS INCOMING. THESE ATTACKS KILLED TWO MARINES AND WOUNDED 13 (FIVE EVACUATED). FRIENDLY ACTIONS AT KHE SANH KILLED 16 ENEMY, THIRTEEN BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES.

5. (S) ALONG THE DNZ, AN ADDITIONAL 132 ENEMY INCOMING ROUNDS WERE RECEIVED. MOST FELL IN THE VICINITY OF C-2 BASE NORTH OF CAN LU WHERE TWO MARINES WERE KILLED AND 12 WOUNDED.

6. (S) THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION CONTINUED TO PATROL WITH ONE TROOP OF 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY IN THE VICINITY OF CAN LU AS PREPARATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING OPERATIONS VICINITY OF KHE SANH PROGRESS ON SCHEDULE. THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION CARRIED OUT DECEPTION ACTIVITIES IN THE VICINITY OF LONG HA.

7. (S) OUR ARTILLERY FIRED 99 MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH, EXPENDING 2,003 ROUNDS. TWENTY-TWO OF THE MISSIONS WERE OBSERVED. NO COFRAM AMMUNITION WAS

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Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)  
By ms, NARS, Date 3-31-78

PP

8. (S) A TOTAL OF 306 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA. OF THESE, 198 WERE FLOWN IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF KHE SANH. DAMAGE OBSERVED INCLUDED SEVEN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, EIGHT SECONDARY FIRES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF 365 METERS OF TRENCHES, 31 BUNKERS AND ONE TRUCK. A TOTAL OF 263 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD.

9. (S) FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES, OF 30 SORTIES, WERE SCHEDULED. THREE SORTIES WERE DIVERTED TO SECONDARY TARGETS. ONE OF THE STRIKES REPORTED OBSERVING SEVEN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. SIX MISSIONS ARE PLANNED FOR 29 MARCH.

10. (S) ONE RECONNAISSANCE TEAM WAS INSERTED INTO THE A SHAU VALLEY EARLY THIS MORNING WITHOUT DRAWING FIRE. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FROM TACTICAL AIR STRIKES YESTERDAY IN A SHAU WAS FOUR MACHINE GUN BUNKERS DESTROYED, TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. THERE WERE NO UNUSUAL RETURNS ON SLAR MISSIONS BUT 12 EMISSIONS AT 10 LOCATIONS WERE DETECTED ON IR FLOWN ALONG RTE 547.  
GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS  
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Saturday, March 30, 1968

Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979  
By if, NARS, Date 6-25-79

68

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

SUBJECT: Khe Sanh Report

This is report fifty-five on the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area, for the 24-hour period 29 March 1968.

~~Weather at Khe Sanh was generally good yesterday with visibility to seven miles.~~ However, at noon yesterday, fog quickly formed and obscured the sky and reduced visibility to less than one mile. These conditions prevailed during the morning but the fog was expected to lift by 10:00 a.m. Good sky conditions are expected the rest of the day. Heavy fog is again predicted by noon tomorrow to persist until 8:00 p.m.

QQ

A total of ~~223 short tons of supplies~~ and 100 passenger replacements were delivered to the Khe Sanh combat area during the reporting period. Eleven C-130 and three C-123 aircraft conducted airdrops. Forty-five Marine helicopters landed with cargo and passengers. A total of 10.5 tons of air delivery equipment was back-loaded.

~~Supplies remain at a satisfactory level~~ with 28 days of rations and 23 or more days of large caliber ammunitions on hand.

A total of ~~56 rounds of enemy indirect fire was received at Khe Sanh;~~ 25 artillery, 25 mortar and six rocket. These attacks ~~wounded five (three evacuated).~~ Ground action occurred when Company D, First Battalion, 9th Marines observed a new enemy trench outside their perimeter. Approximately eight enemy were engaged with small arms and 3.5 inch rockets. The enemy responded with heavy mortar fire. Four enemy were killed and one Marine was wounded.

Along the DMZ, sporadic shelling of friendly bases and installations continued as a total of 63 incoming rounds were received. The only casualties reported were at C3 base north of Cam Lo where five Marines were wounded (two evacuated). Total U. S. casualties were 15 wounded (seven evacuated) and 18 enemy killed (11 by air), one individual and two crew-served weapons captured.

Elsewhere in Quang Tri Province, contact was light with no significant action reported. The First Air Cavalry Division continued reconnaissance near Ca Lu and to the west along Route 9 in preparation for upcoming operations. In a deception maneuver, one Army of the Republic of Vietnam Battalion, one USMC Battalion and one Cav Squadron (reinforced) initiated limited attacks northwest of Dong Ha at 5:00 p.m. last night. Five naval gunfire ships (one cruiser and four destroyers) will support this deception effort.

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-2-

Artillery fire for Khe Sanh consisted of 82 missions expending ~~1,626 rounds~~. Twenty-one missions were observed. No cofram ammunition was fired.

A total of ~~315 tactical air sorties were flown in the Niagara area~~. Seven road cuts, 18 secondary fires, damage to two military structures and two trucks and destruction of four military structures and three trucks was observed. Tactical air sorties planned for tomorrow total 255.

There were six arc light strikes (~~36 sorties~~) scheduled into the Niagara area. One sortie was diverted to a secondary target. One strike observed five secondary explosions. There were 18 additional secondary explosions reported for the previous period, 8:00 p.m. 27 March to 8:00 p.m. 28 March. Eight missions are scheduled for Niagara for 30 March.

A Shau Valley side-looking air radar and photo missions reported no unusual returns. One reconnaissance team remains in the valley.

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MR RUSK STATE DEPT WASH DC  
MR HELMS CIA  
GEN JOHNSON CSA WASH DC  
GEN MCCONNELL CSAF WASH DC  
ADM MOORER CNO WASH DC  
ZEN/GEN CHAPMAN CMC WASH DC  
Z 301129Z ZYH ZFF-3  
FM GENERAL WESTMORELAND COMUSMACV  
TO GENERAL WHEELER CJCS  
ADMIRAL SHARP CINCPAC  
INFO AMBASSADOR BUNKER AMEMB SAIGON  
ZEM.

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Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979

By ig, NARS, Date 6-25-79

~~SECRET~~ MAC 4333 EYES ONLY

SUBJ: KHE SANH REPORT (U)

1. (U) THIS IS REPORT NUMBER FIFTY-FIVE ON THE  
KHE SANH/DMZ/A SHAU VALLEY AREA, FOR THE PERIOD 290000 <sup>24 hr</sup> 29  
300900 MARCH 1968.

2. (U) WEATHER AT KHE SANH WAS GENERALLY GOOD  
YESTERDAY WITH VISIBILITY TO SEVEN MILES. HOWEVER, AT  
0100 THIS MORNING, FOG QUICKLY FORMED AND OBSCURED THE  
SKY AND REDUCED VISIBILITY TO LESS THAN ONE MILE. THESE  
CONDITIONS PREVAILED THIS MORNING BUT THE FOG WAS EXPECTED  
TO LIFT BY 1100 HOURS. GOOD SKY CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED  
THE REST OF THE DAY. HEAVY FOG IS AGAIN PREDICTED BY 0100 HOURS  
TOMORROW TO PERSIST UNTIL 0900. <sup>8:00 PM</sup>

3. (S) A TOTAL OF 223 SHORT TONS OF SUPPLIES AND 100  
PASSENGER REPLACEMENTS WERE DELIVERED TO KSCB DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. ELEVEN C-130 AND THREE C-123 AIR-  
CRAFT CONDUCTED AIRDROPS. FORTY-FIVE MARINE HELICOPTERS  
LANDED WITH CARGO AND PASSENGERS. A TOTAL OF 10.5 TONS  
OF AIR DELIVERY EQUIPMENT WAS BACKLOADED. *the south Combat Zone*

4. (S) SUPPLIES REMAIN AT A SATISFACTORY LEVEL  
WITH 28 DAYS OF RATIONS AND 23 OR MORE DAYS OF LARGE CALIBER  
AMMUNITIONS ON HAND.

5. (S) A TOTAL OF 56 ROUNDS OF ENEMY INDIRECT FIRE  
WAS RECEIVED AT KHE SANH; 25 ARTILLERY, 25 MORTAR AND  
SIX ROCKET. THESE ATTACKS WOUNDED FIVE (THREE EVACUATED).  
GROUND ACTION OCCURRED WHEN COMPANY D, 1ST BATTALION,  
9TH MARINES OBSERVED A NEW ENEMY TRENCH OUTSIDE THEIR  
PERIMETER. APPROXIMATELY EIGHT ~~NVA~~ <sup>ENEMY</sup> WERE ENGAGED WITH  
ALL ARMS AND 3.5 INCH ROCKETS. THE ENEMY RESPONDED  
WITH HEAVY MORTAR FIRE. FOUR ~~NVA~~ <sup>ENEMY</sup> WERE KILLED AND ONE  
MARINE WAS WOUNDED.

6. (S) ALONG THE DMZ, SPORADIC SHELLING OF FRIENDLY  
BASES AND INSTALLATIONS CONTINUED AS A TOTAL OF 63 INCOMING  
ROUNDS WERE RECEIVED. THE ONLY CASUALTIES REPORTED WERE

03 BASE NORTH OF CAM LO WHERE FIVE MARINES WERE WOUNDED (TWO EVACUATED). TOTAL U. S. CASUALTIES WERE 15 WIA (SEVEN EVACUATED) AND 18 ENEMY KIA (11 BY AIR), ONE INDIVIDUAL AND ONE CREW SERVED WEAPON CAPTURED.

7. (S) ELSEWHERE IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, CONTACT WAS LIGHT WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION REPORTED. THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION CONTINUED RECONNAISSANCE NEAR CA LU AND TO THE WEST ALONG ROUTE 9 IN PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING OPERATIONS. IN A DECEPTION MANEUVER, ONE ARVN BATTALION, ONE USMC BATTALION AND ONE CAV SQUADRON (REINFORCED) INITIATED LIMITED ATTACKS NORTHWEST OF DONG HA AT 0600 HOURS THIS MORNING. FIVE NAVAL GUNFIRE SHIPS (ONE CRUISER AND FOUR DESTROYERS) WILL SUPPORT THIS DECEPTION EFFORT. LAST NIGHT

8. (S) ARTILLERY FIRE SUPPORT FOR KHE SANH CONSISTED OF 82 MISSIONS EXPENDING 1,626 ROUNDS. TWENTY-ONE MISSIONS WERE OBSERVED. NO COFRAM AMMUNITION WAS FIRED.

9. (S) A TOTAL OF 315 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA. SEVEN ROAD CUTS, 18 SECONDARY FIRES, DAMAGE TO TWO MILITARY STRUCTURES AND TWO TRUCKS AND DESTRUCTION OF FOUR MILITARY STRUCTURES AND THREE TRUCKS WAS OBSERVED. TACTICAL AIR SORTIES PLANNED FOR TOMORROW TOTAL 255.

10. (S) THERE WERE SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) SCHEDULED INTO THE NIAGARA AREA. ONE SORTIE WAS DIVERTED TO A SECONDARY TARGET. ONE STRIKE OBSERVED FIVE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. THERE WERE 18 ADDITIONAL SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS REPORTED FOR THE PREVIOUS PERIOD 280900-TO-290900. EIGHT MISSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR NIAGARA FOR 30 MARCH.

11. (S) A SHAU VALLEY SLAR AND PHOTO MISSIONS REPORTED NO UNUSUAL RETURNS. ONE RECON TEAM REMAINS IN THE VALLEY. GP-4

8:00 PM 27 march to 8:00 PM 27 MAR

SIDE-LOOKING AIR RADAR

SSO-NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS  
650-

~~SECRET~~

~~EYES ONLY~~

NNNN



686

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Saturday, March 30, 1968  
10:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh-DMZ-A Shau:

- 56 rounds enemy incoming;
- 1,626 rounds friendly;
- 223 tons resupply; supplies remain satisfactory level;
- 315 tactical sorties, plus 36 B-52's;
- weather generally good.

You should know Bus Wheeler was a bit annoyed with CIA this morning for calling enemy shelling (56 rounds) heavy.

W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-18-78 letter

By ip, NARS, Date 3-16-79