Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's Khe Sanh daily, plus the supply table.

You will note he plans to move to a daily air drop of 140 tons.

Rostow

SECRET attachment

DECLASSIFIED
Authority OSD 3-16-78 letter
By P, NARS, Date 3-16-79
SECRET RAO 32392 EYES ONLY

THIS IS THE NINTH REPORT ON THE KHE SANH AREA AND COVERS THE PERIOD 12/12/60 TO 13/12/60 FEBRUARY 1961.

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE INCOMING ENEMY ARTILLERY, ROCKETS, AND MOTORS. A TOTAL OF 65 ROUNDS IMPACTED AT KHE SANH OF WHICH 25 WERE MOTORS AND THREE EACH WERE ARTILLERY AND SHOVEL ROCKETS.

SIX MARINES WERE WOUNDED AS A RESULT. ELSEWHERE ALONG THE DMZ MODERATE CONCENTRATIONS fell upon marine elements. MID-AFTERNOON BARRAGES DROPPED 24 MORTAR ROUNDS ON CAMP CARROLL, 72 AT...

CA LU, AND EIGHT ROUNDS AT CON THIEN, WHILE CON THIEN AND O A LU HAD NO CASUALTIES, THE INCOMING AT CAMP CARROLL RESULTED IN INJURIES TO 13 MARINES (NINE WERE MED-EVACUATED).

FARTHER NORTH, ELEMENTS OF THE 3D MARINES IN THE VICINITY OF GIA LINH RECEIVED 25 ROUNDS OF MIXED CALIBER MORTAR, CAUSING MAJOR INJURIES TO FOUR MARINES. GIA LINH ITSELF RECEIVED 19 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ROCKETS WITH NEGATIVE CASUALTIES. FINALLY, LIMA CO IN OPERATION SALINE RECEIVED FOUR ROUNDS OF UNKNOWN CALIBER ARTILLERY. DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE DAYS SHELLING WAS MINIMAL ANI CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT WITH NO FATALITIES REPORTED. IN TOTAL, 25 MARINES WE INJURED, 14 OF WHOM REQUIRED MED-EV.

OTHER THAN INCOMING ACTIVITY AT KHE SANH AND BORDERING AREAS OF THE DMZ, ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT WITH NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND CONTACT REPORTED.

MARINE TACTICAL AIR FLEW 63 SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE SANH AREA, WITH 16 AIRCRAFT ON CALL. USAF FLEW 75 AND USN FLEW 89 SORTIES. TOTAL 223 SORTIES FLOWN. BDA REPORTS 15 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 51 SECONDARY FIRES, 9 MILITARY STRUCTURES DESTROYED, 10 ENEMY KIA, 11 TRUCKS DESTROYED, TWO 37MM GUNS.

SILENCED, ONE BRIDGE PARTIALLY DESTROYED. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) WERE RUN IN THE NIAGARA AREA. 1657 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED CALIBER MORTAR AND ARTILLERY WERE FIRED IN THE KHE SANH AND DMZ AREAS.

NO GROUND TYPE ORDUNANCE WAS USED.

DURING THE PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 34.5 SHORT TONS WERE DELIVERED BY ONE USCG C-120, SIX OF USAF C-125 AND TWO USMC OH-57.

TRENSUPPLY INCLUDED 24 SHORT TONS OF AMMUNITION, SIX SHORT TONS...
Of Engineer Equipment, 15 Short Tons of Class 11 Supplies and Four Short Tons of Mail. The C-133 That Was Disabled by Enemy Fire on 11 Feb. Was Repaired Today and Floom Out of the Sanh.

On 12 February Enemy Fire Has Received at the Airfield. Offloading in One Case Has Conducted at the End of the Runway, Vice the Loading Ramp. A New Air Drop Area Has Been Secured at the Sanh on Implementation Plans. Weather Permitting, to Air Drop 148 Short Tons Daily From C-133 Aircraft. Air Delivery By C-123 and CH-53 Aircraft, to Be Offloaded on the Airfield, Will Continue.

The Out or ASP Status at the Sanh, Reported As Number of Days on Hand on 12 February is as follows: Class 1: MC1 - 9,

No Change; 3 Rations - 9, Decrease of One Day; Class III: Avgas - 12, No Change; JP-4 - 4, No Change; Mogas - 4, Decrease of One Day; and Diesel - 5, No Change. Class V he: 63MM - 15, No Change; 81MM - 21, Increase of 9 Days; 90MM - 98, Decrease of 19 Days; 4.2 in - 35, Increase of 9 Days; 105MM - 10, Decrease Two Days; and 155MM - 21, Decrease of Two Days. There Was No Change in the Status of Minecracker or Anti-Tank Ordnance.

For the Period 151200H to 141200H Marine Tactical Air Plans 44 Sorties in Support of the Sanh with 16 Aircraft on Call. The USAF Will Fly 148 Sorties, The USN Will Fly 328 Sorties for a Total 292 Planned Sorties. And Light Will Run Four Strikes (33 Sorties) in the Niagara Area.

The Weather at the Sanh continues to be characterized by low clouds and heavy night and morning fog. The weather from 1200H to 1730H on 12 February was 500 foot cloud ceilings and visibilities ranging from two to four miles in fog. The fog increased by 2300H and the visibilities during the rest of the Night of the 12th and through the morning of the 13th ranged from zero to one-half mile. The weather forecasted for the afternoon of 13 February is for cloud ceilings to raise to 1000 feet and

Visibilities to improve to five miles. In haze by 1500H. Conditions will begin to deteriorate by 1800H and by 2000H cloud ceilings will be 400 feet and visibilities will be near one mile, occasionally going to zero. Starting about 0900H on the morning of 14 February, conditions will begin to improve and cloud ceilings will raise to 1700 feet and visibilities will be five miles in haze, warm regards.

CP-4

SSO No Tei: Deliver Immediately to Gen Wheeler. Deliver During Duty Hours to Sharp and Bunker 873.
Mr. President:

Herewith Bus Wheeler's supplementary report from Westy.

Westy's cheering up a bit.

Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority [Redacted] date 3-16-78
By [Redacted], NARS, Date 3-16-78
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. I conferred by telephone with General Westmoreland at 0800 hours. In addition to the brief of operations attached hereto and his ninth report on the Khe Sanh area which has already been provided to you, he provided the following comments on the situation:

a. A rallier from the 812th Regiment of the NVA 324B Division, currently located south of Quang Tri, stated that enemy propaganda to North Vietnamese troops emphasizes four points: (1) 80% of South Vietnam has been liberated by the enemy during the Tet offensive; (2) the war will end if every man and unit put forth maximum effort; (3) the ARVN is deserting to the enemy in large numbers; (4) the United States has no more troops to furnish to the South Vietnamese conflict.

b. The situation is looking better to him in all areas. US Marines had a heavy contact during the day near Hue, and the 1st Cavalry Division had a heavy contact north of Hue. He does not have details of this action as yet.

c. The Soviet model 120 mm mortar was employed yesterday near Can Tho in the Delta for the first time.

d. Dalat has been cleared of enemy forces.

e. Enemy elements still hang on in the Citadel in Hue. The third of the three ARVN Marine Battalions which will replace the ARVN Airborne Battalions in this action will move into Hue tomorrow. The situation in the Hue area was

DECLASSIFIED
Authority JCS 10-3-78 letter
By P. NARS, Date 3-16-79

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better today enabling air support to be employed; the forecast is that the weather will be better tomorrow also.

f. In Saigon, small enemy groups continue to be encountered in Cholon, but there appears to be no organized resistance. There have been sporadic contacts with enemy groups of 20 to 30 men to the north of Saigon.

g. The C-130 which was damaged by enemy fire while delivering supplies in Khe Sanh has been repaired and flown out. This was a gallant, dangerous, and tough effort because the repair crews had to work all night with lights shielded in order to avoid enemy fire.

h. The Riverine Force moved by water to the vicinity of Can Tho yesterday afternoon (Saigon time). Its objective is an enemy force south of Can Tho. He ordered this deployment in order to demonstrate that US forces are helping the ARVN in the area because VC propaganda directed at the population has stated that US forces have joined with VC forces to destroy the ARVN and overthrow the Saigon government.

i. He is employing additional barrier sensors and gravel in the Khe Sanh area. Preliminary information indicates that this effort is being helpful.

2. General Bruce Clarke and Mr. Frank Mayborn of Temple, Texas, met with General Westmoreland yesterday. Both seemed to be impressed by what they had seen.

3. He regrets that I cannot come to Saigon and visit with him now; he hopes that I can come later when things have quieted down so that he can discuss the over-all situation with me.

4. General Westmoreland raised with me rather diffidently the quantity and the detail of reports being requested of him from Washington. Back channel traffic has been extremely heavy and
duplicative requests for information are frequent. A recent request for much detail to be on the wires from his headquarters at 0400 hours in the morning is requiring him to change his reporting cycle in order to honor the request. He expressed the hope that, except for the daily telephone conversations with me, requests for information can be handled through the NMCC in order to preclude duplication and reduce volume. Note: The NMCC has constantly opened and manned at both ends a voice circuit to the MACV Combat Operations Center as well as a teletype service.

Earle G. Wheeler
EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

P.S. Incidentally omitted from the above, General Westmoreland expressed his gratitude at the prompt affirmative response to his request for troop reinforcements.
Wednesday, February 14, 1968
10:05 a.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith Khe Sanh daily.

Wl. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority JCS 10-2-78 Letter
By J. NAES, Date 3-11-78
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

Wednesday, February 14, 1968, 9:30 AM

This is the tenth report on the Khe Sanh - DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 13, 1968.

During the reporting period Khe Sanh Combat Base and surrounding areas received over 200 rounds of mixed mortars, artillery and rocket fire. Neighboring elements at Camp Carroll received 10 rounds of mortar fire while Marines in the vicinity of A-3 (5 kilometers northeast of Con Thien) received three consecutive afternoon barrages of 30 rounds of enemy mortar and 70 rounds of artillery. Seven mortar rounds impacted within the perimeter at Con Thien. Concluding the day's bombardment, shortly after noon, elements at Gio Linh received nine rounds of artillery.

Although damage attributed to the shelling was minimal, one Marine was killed and 12 Marines wounded, 6 of whom required medical evacuation.

In Operation Scotland in the Khe Sanh area, a 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion Patrol encountered a small enemy force at mid-afternoon, killed two North Vietnamese Army and captured an 82MM recoilless gun.

Elsewhere in northern I Corps, at 7:45 AM a Marine unit ambushed a 20 man North Vietnamese Army Patrol around Cha Linh and counted 7 North Vietnamese Army bodies and 1 detainee resulting from the engagement. One Marine was killed, and one Marine was wounded.

Other elements along the DMZ reported no significant contact for the period. Total casualties for the period in the Khe Sanh area were: friendly, killed 1, wounded 10; enemy, killed 2. Elsewhere along the DMZ one Marine was killed and three Marines were wounded; nine North Vietnamese Army were killed.

Marine aircraft flew 65 sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area; the Air Force flew 192 tactical air sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area, the Navy flew 51, for a total of 308 sorties. Bomb Damage Assessment included 14 secondary explosions (one extremely large), 6 artillery positions were destroyed, 5 artillery positions damaged, there were 2 secondary fires, and 250 meters of trench were destroyed. ARC LIGHT ran 4 strikes (30 sorties) in the Niagara area in support of Khe Sanh.
Khe Sanh was resupplied with 83 short tons on February 13. Ammunition amounted to 50 short tons. There were 16 short tons of vehicles and 4 short tons of general supplies delivered. In addition, 175 replacements were air lifted into the Khe Sanh Airfield.

Air operations on February 14 began at 9:00 AM with air drops from C-130 aircraft. So far today, some 6 short tons have been air dropped. C-123 aircraft are enroute for air delivery to the airfield. Present weather looks favorable for air resupply operations.

For the next 24 hours Marine Tactical Air plans 44 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force will have 150 sorties, and the Navy 100 sorties, for a total of 294 sorties planned. There will be 16 additional Marine aircraft and 120 Air Force sorties on call for Khe Sanh. There will be six B-52 strikes (27 sorties) run in the Niagara area.

During the period the weather at Khe Sanh was characterized by low clouds and heavy night time and morning fog. Until 5:00 PM on February 13 the ceiling was 500 feet and visibility 3 - 7 miles in fog. After 5:00 PM the ceiling was 100 feet and the visibility 1/4 mile in fog. Low ceilings and visibilities continued throughout the remainder of the night and early morning with an improving trend beginning after 2:00 AM on the 14th. By 9:00 AM the ceiling had improved to 2,000 foot overcast with the visibility to 7 miles. By noon the ceiling was 2,000 foot broken.

The forecast is for partly cloudy skies and visibility 6 miles by early afternoon on the 14th. The sky will continue to be party cloudy throughout the afternoon and evening and continuing through noon on the 15th. The visibility will continue to be 6 miles throughout the period except lowering to 5 miles in smoke and haze near sunrise on the 15th.
Wednesday, February 14, 1968
11:25 a.m.

Mr. President:


As you will see, a number of offensive operations are under way.

W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 9CS10-3-78 letter
By NARS, Date 3-16-79
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. I talked to General Westmoreland for some forty minutes beginning at 0800 hours this morning. In addition to his tenth report on the Khe Sanh area which you have already received, and the attachment to this memorandum setting forth combat operations throughout the country, General Westmoreland reported several interesting developments:

   a. He spent yesterday (last night Washington time) visiting the I Corps Tactical Zone. He met with General Lam, Commander I Corps; General Cushman, and other senior US and ARVN commanders. He also visited the ARVN 51st Infantry Regiment and the American 7th Marine Regiment. He says that the ARVN troops have their tails up; they are proud of themselves because of the way they defeated the enemy.

   b. General Lam had been marked for assassination at the outset of the attack on Danang when he was scheduled to visit a pagoda to pay his respects to his ancestors. Lam got wind of this, went to another pagoda to worship and arranged for a force to seize the assassination group.

   c. Lam states that the young VC captured (mostly NVA) have been propagandized that the South Vietnamese wouldn't fight and that there would be an uprising; also that there would be peace in six months under a coalition government. As a matter of fact, there was no uprising and in certain instances some South Vietnamese civilians actually captured NVA soldiers and turned them over to the authorities.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-3-78 Letter

By NARS, Date 3-16-79
d. The attack on Danang, according to General Lam, was poorly planned, hastily put together, and not too well executed. Regional Force and Popular Force units acquitted themselves well.

e. The food situation in Danang is satisfactory. The local citizens have voluntarily donated 600,000 piasters to provide assistance to the homeless.

2. In Hue, the remaining enemy is bottled up in three or four strong points; they are short of food. The weather is better today and flyable, and General Westmoreland has ordered General Cushman to use Napalm on these strong points in order to reduce them. The people in Hue have been generally cooperative with US and ARVN troops; they have voluntarily provided food and water to friendly forces. The radio station is operating and electricity is available throughout the town. There was no uprising in Hue.

3. As to ARVN combat effectiveness, General Westmoreland reports that in the First ARVN Division, which is an excellent fighting outfit, the 1st Regiment has an average strength present of 420 per battalion; the 2d Regiment an average of 320 per battalion; the 3d Regiment (which was heavily engaged) has only about 200 effective per battalion. The Ranger Battalions in I Corps are in good shape as are the 2d ARVN Division and the 51st ARVN Regiment. The Vietnamese Joint General Staff is taking extraordinary actions to provide replacements for under-strength units.

4. The elements of the Americal Division, which attacked the 2d NVA Division south of Danang, is still finding additional dead enemy in the very extensive area over which they fought. Westmoreland still does not have an accurate estimate of the very heavy losses sustained in that area by the enemy. Parenthetically, he remarked that he saw 500 POWs being held in a compound at General Lam's I Corps Headquarters. Lam states that the people are indignant at the violation of Tet by the VC and the brutality they have displayed towards civilians and their homes.
5. General Abrams has been at Headquarters MACV Forward, located in the Hue/Phu Bai area, for a couple of days. The headquarters has been operational for several days, has a strong staff, and is prepared to control all military operations north of the Ai Van Pass.

6. On his return to Saigon late yesterday, after consulting with Ambassador Bunker, he informed President Thieu, in the presence of General Vien, of the additional US reinforcements being sent. Both were very happy to learn of this fact. President Thieu has agreed to replace General Vinh Loc, Commander II CTZ, this week. Westmoreland has urged, and Thieu has agreed, that General Thang should assume command of IV CTZ at an early date.

7. Yesterday, near Quang Ngai, a refugee center was overrun and burned. Casualties and destruction are unknown at this time. Moreover, there was a contact in this area with the NVA 33rd Regiment resulting in 30 enemy KIA. General Westmoreland has instructed General Rosson, Commander II FFV, to seek out and destroy this already battered enemy unit.

8. North of Saigon, an ARVN unit searching for the enemy made a rather heavy contact in which they killed 70 enemy while losing four of their own men.

9. The Riverine Force, which, as I reported to you yesterday, had moved into the Can Tho area in the Delta, had a light contact with the enemy yesterday. However, they located and captured a cache of large quantities of ammunition to include rocket and mortar rounds.

10. The weather opened up briefly in the Mu Gia Pass area and a North Vietnamese POL convoy was seen in the open. General Momyer put 36 tactical air sorties on it. Results not yet known.

11. The Army Engineer Battalion is working to open Highway 1 through the Ai Van Pass. General Westmoreland believes he can restore the railroad part way to the north and establish a rail head from which he can shuttle supplies by truck.
12. He is moving an Armored Cavalry Battalion from the II Corps area into the northern I CTZ in order to provide additional highway security as well as an anti-tank capability in the Con Thien/Gio Linh area where he anticipates the enemy may employ PT-76 light Soviet tanks.

13. General Westmoreland discussed with Ambassador Bunker yesterday the establishment of a Tet Assistance Relief Fund (TARF) to be funded by donations from American troops in South Vietnam, to provide relief to those unfortunate South Vietnamese who were made homeless and destitute by the recent enemy attacks. General Westmoreland considers that this fund will not only create good will between the people and the US Military Forces, but will help to establish a good image of the American soldier - that is, that he is not a cold blooded killer but is compassionate to the unfortunate. Ambassador Bunker may well query State on this matter in order to receive guidance of a policy nature.

Earle G. Wheeler
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
The White House
Washington

SECRET

Thursday, February 15, 1968
9:20 a.m.

Mr. President:

They really got some supplies into Khe Sanh yesterday -- 188 tons.

Lt. Gen. Rostow

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority JCS 10-2-78 letter
By, NARS, Date 3/6/79
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the eleventh report on the Khe Sanh - DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 14, 1968.

Significant activity yesterday in the First Corps continued to center in northern Quang Tri Province as renewed enemy shelling impacted at Khe Sanh Combat Base and outlying areas bordering the DMZ.

At Khe Sanh, elements of the 26th Marines received 65 rounds of mortars and 13 rounds of rocket scattered throughout the day and night. Friendly casualties for the period amounted to three Marines killed, 10 wounded (nine evacuated). The 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines in the vicinity of Camp Carroll counted 30 rounds of mortars during mid-day shellings. Friendly casualties were one killed, nine wounded (seven evacuated).

A noontime barrage of 13 rounds of mortar at Con Thien inflicted no casualties or damage on the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. Twenty additional mortar rounds fell at Cl, seven kilometers south of Gio Linh, causing minor injuries to four ARVN soldiers.

Marine aircraft flew 106 tactical air sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area, the Air Force flew 98 sorties and the Navy flew 39, for a total of 243 tactical air sorties. Bomb Damage included 15 bunkers destroyed, six anti-aircraft positions destroyed, numerous secondary fires, 10 secondary explosions, 14 killed by air, one rocket position destroyed. Twenty-one B-52's flew four ARC LIGHT strikes delivering 525 tons of ordnance in the Niagara area.

Khe Sanh was resupplied with 188 short tons during the period, with 80 short tons being air dropped from Air Force C-130 aircraft. Nineteen C-123 and helicopters airdropped the additional 107.5 short tons. A total of 141 short tons of ammunition and 31 short tons of engineering equipment were included.
For the next 24-hour period Marine Tactical Air plans 44 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force plans 150, and the Navy 100, for a total of 294 sorties. Sixteen Marine aircraft and 120 Air Force sorties will be on call. ARC LIGHT will run 15 strikes (45 sorties) in the Niagara area, commencing the Bugle Note Program of three-aircraft strikes with time over targets' each 1 1/2 hours.

Weather at Khe Sanh throughout the period was favorable for most military operations. The visibility was greater than five miles except for a short period near midnight due to ground fog. During most of the afternoon the sky condition was 2500 foot broken. By early evening cloudiness decreased and remained scattered throughout the night. Valley stratus formed after sunrise 1500 to 2000 feet producing a broken ceiling which remained in the area throughout the morning.

Forecast for Khe Sanh during the next period is for generally good visibility in daytime. After sunset, fog and stratus will gradually form lowering the ceiling to from 200 - 500 feet and the visibility to one mile or less by sunrise. Shortly thereafter, the ceiling will gradually improve to 100 broken and the visibility to five miles.
Thursday, February 15, 1968
11:30 a.m.

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's daily report via Bus Wheeler. Its tone and substance continue to be optimistic.

Aside from the unresolved situation in Hue today, my major concern; arising from current reports, is the enemy is exploiting the loose situation in the countryside to take back some villages where we had established security, and is probably trying to recruit men to make up their losses. Aside from the I Corps battle, I suspect getting pacification back on its feet will gradually become a number one task.

Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 050 10/18/78 Letter
By , NARS, Date 3-16-79

TOP SECRET
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. In addition to General Westmoreland's eleventh report on the Khe Sanh/DMZ area, I have attached hereto a summary of the more significant actions in South Vietnam yesterday. At 0800 this morning I talked with General Westmoreland on the telephone, and he made the following comments:

   a. Weather in the Khe Sanh area was generally good yesterday, permitting air operations, both tactical and logistic, to be accomplished. However, the weather was not good enough to permit him to distribute grave in certain areas north of Khe Sanh as he would like to do.

   b. Our air had a good day yesterday. They destroyed a large ammunition cache southwest of Khe Sanh, struck a large storage area near Tchepone in Laos, with smoke rising 6,000 feet in the air. The tactical air strike reported to you yesterday near Mu Gia Pass uncovered a North Vietnamese storage area which was also attacked during the period.

   c. The Vietnamese Ranger Battalion at Khe Sanh carried out an excellent small unit operation yesterday. They moved a platoon outside of the perimeter during darkness to a hilltop; as day broke, they sent out a small patrol which deliberately exposed itself. The North Vietnamese troops came out of their holes to attack the patrol, and the whole Ranger platoon attacked them, inflicting casualties, and captured an 82 mm mortar.

* small anti-personnel mines.
d. At Hue, the enemy is still dug into the south wall of the Citadel. General Westmoreland plans to use air strikes again today, employing high explosives, white phosphorous, and Napalm weapons. He now has three ARVN Marine Corps Battalions (which replaced the understrength ARVN Airborne Battalions in Hue). There are also seven companies of US Marines engaged in the operation. He anticipates that the enemy can hold out for about three more days.

e. North of Saigon, armed helicopters and tactical air caught a large force of the enemy in the open, inflicting about 120 casualties on them. General Westmoreland thinks that the enemy's command and control system has broken down in the Saigon area. At any rate, the enemy seems to be confused and apparently has no orders or plans to withdraw. He considers this a satisfactory situation since it will permit him to destroy them element by element.

f. As reported to you yesterday, the Riverine Force operating near Can Tho discovered and captured a very sizeable enemy ammunition depot containing large quantities of grenades, 120 mm mortar rounds, etc.

2. General Westmoreland yesterday (last night Washington time) visited the 1st US Infantry Division, the 25th US Infantry Division and the 199th Infantry Brigade. These units have done and are doing extremely well. He stated that the 199th Brigade, located near Bien Hoa, has been commanded during the recent heavy fighting by a negro colonel named Davidson who did a splendid job in leading and commanding his forces. General Westmoreland believes that in the first two or three days of the fighting, this brigade killed over 1,100 of the enemy.

3. I discussed the Khe Sanh situation at some length with General Westmoreland. I conveyed to him the message which you transmitted to me through Secretary McNamara. General Westmoreland told me that he understands and appreciates greatly your firm support.
Pertinent to this aspect of the war, he stated that all events support the belief that the pounding from the air and from our artillery is having a good effect from our point of view on enemy capabilities in the area; i.e., his supply and command system is being constantly disrupted, and casualties are being inflicted on enemy troops in the Khe Sanh area.

4. General Westmoreland reported that except for the foregoing, the situation was quiet elsewhere.

Earle G. Wheeler
EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Friday, February 16, 1968
9:15 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

In DMZ:

-- scattered shelling;
-- an incredible number of secondary explosions (p. 2);
-- 119 tons delivered.

We have a firm report that one enemy unit around Khe Sanh has 193 combat-ready men from an original 289. How they lost 96 is not indicated.

Rostow

SECRET attachment
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the twelfth report on the Khe Sanh - DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 15, 1968.

Enemy shelling continued throughout much of northern First Corps yesterday as Khe Sanh Combat Base and neighboring areas in proximity to the DMZ received scattered incoming rocket, artillery, and mortar rounds. Latest information received indicates that the enemy fired 14 rocket rounds and 110 rounds of mixed caliber mortar at the Khe Sanh Combat Base, resulting in two Marines killed, 28 wounded (16 evacuated). While Khe Sanh bore the heaviest barrage, moderate concentrations fell upon other friendly locations, as Marine elements at Camp Carroll received five mid-afternoon mortar rounds and 9 rounds of 152 artillery. Fifty-two additional mortar rounds impacted four kilometers southwest of Gio Linh, in the area occupied by the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, in the vicinity of Quang Tri Airfield, received five mortar rounds and at noon, the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, at Con Thien, received 30 rounds of mortar.

In Operation Lancaster, elements of K Company, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines engaged an unknown size enemy force 12 kilometers northeast of Khe Sanh. Relief force of I Company, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived to render support. Contact broke at 3:45 PM but resulted in 12 Marines killed, 107 wounded (37 evacuated). Enemy casualties are unknown at this time.

In other action in northern Quang Tri Province, small unit contacts in Operation Kentucky accounted for three North Vietnamese Army killed; two additional North Vietnamese Army were confirmed as a result of mortar mission on an enemy location. No significant contacts were reported in either the Napoleon or Saline Operations.

Disposition of friendly forces and allied armament in the Khe Sanh area did not change during the period.
In all, there were 317 tactical air sorties flown in support of the Khe Sanh area and the adjacent Niagara area. Marine aircraft flew 111 sorties in support of Khe Sanh delivered 282 tons of ordnance. Bomb Damage Assessment included five structures damaged, (3 - 50 caliber machine gun position destroyed, and two tanks destroyed. The Air Force flew 166 sorties and the Navy flew 40, reporting the attack onto two major supply areas. One supply area six nautical miles south of Tchepone had a total of 89 sorties with over 500 secondary explosions and fires. A second storage area had 23 sorties with the Forward Air Control reporting over 1000 secondary explosions. B-52's flew 15 ARC LIGHT strikes (45 sorties) on Niagara targets.

Khe Sanh was resupplied with 119 short tons during the period. A total of 19 sorties (Air Force: five C-130 air drops; 11 - C-123 airlanded) (Marines: one C-130; two CH-53 airlanded) delivered the material.

For the next 24 hours the Marine Tactical Air Sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area will total 44. The Air Force plans 202, and the Navy plans 100. ARC LIGHT planning calls for 15 strikes (45 sorties) continuing the Bugle Note Series in the Niagara area.

Regarding the weather for the period in the Khe Sanh area, the sky was mostly cloudy with ceilings near 2000 feet during the daylight hours of February 15 but lowering to 1500 feet broken after sunset, and remaining so throughout the night. For the next 24-hour period, the morning visibility will be restricted to 1 - 3 miles with ground fog beginning about 6 AM, and will gradually improve to 7 miles by noon. The sky will be mostly cloudy with the lower ceiling near 1000 feet, but improving to 1000 feet scattered, 2500 feet broken from 1 PM to 7 PM.
MR. PRESIDENT:

Herewith Westy's morning telephone conversation.

The most worrying thing at the moment (see pages 1 and 2 of the attached operational intelligence briefing) is the VC exploitation of the withdrawal of our forces from the countryside.

attachment

DECLASSIFIED Authority 050 10-18-79
By NARS, Date 3-16-79
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. Attached hereto is a very brief biography of Colonel Davison, the negro Deputy Commander of the 199th Brigade whose performance as Acting Commander of the brigade was so highly praised by General Westmoreland yesterday.

2. In addition to General Westmoreland's twelfth report on the Khe Sanh/DMZ area, I have attached hereto an Operations/Intelligence brief which I believe you will find of interest. When I talked to General Westmoreland at 0800 hours this morning, he furnished additional information as follows:

   a. Weather has been good in the Hue area, permitting air support to ground units attempting to eliminate the tenacious group of enemy ensconced in the south wall of the Citadel. The enemy has moved a considerable force, exact size still unknown, north of Hue in an apparent attempt to reinforce the enemy elements still in Hue.

   b. Battalions of the US 1st Cavalry Division are in contact with them, and General Abrams is maneuvering to get more battalions deployed to defeat this force. Of interest is the fact that armed helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division caught one company of the reinforcing enemy in the open as they attempted to charge our forces across an open field.

   c. Air operations in support of Khe Sanh continue to be heavy and successful. As mentioned to you earlier, our attack air struck with much success a POL convoy on Highway 15 near the Mu Gia Pass; additionally, strikes in the Tchepone area caused at least 1,000 secondary explosions. An ammunition depot in Laos southwest of Khe Sanh was struck heavily causing many secondary explosions;
a Forward Air Controller reported that as soon as the secondary explosions ceased, North Vietnamese troops swarmed in like ants attempting to recover boxes of ammunition. General Momyer is continuing to bomb the area during the night, using radar control, tactical air, and, as I dictate this memorandum, a B-52 mission is resuming this particular depot.

d. At Tay Ninh, the MACV compound and the province headquarters were attacked with mortar fire, and, apparently, enemy elements have infiltrated into the city of Tay Ninh. This force, which apparently came from Cambodia, is being dealt with by elements of the ARVN 25th Division and the US 25th Division. The strength of the enemy is at present unknown.

e. IV Corps was rather quiet yesterday although there were small contacts with enemy forces near Can Tho and My Tho.

f. Highway A is now open all the way from Saigon to the city of Can Tho. The traffic on it is heavy.

g. Dak To is still threatened by enemy elements; however, General Westmoreland considers that he has ample troops in the area. Moreover, he is scheduling B-52 strikes in the area over the next several days.

3. General Abrams is in residence at MACV Forward in the Hue/Phu Bai area in order to control combat operations in the northern portion of I Corps.

Earl G. Wheeler
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
MR. PRESIDENT:

Today's DMZ report shows (marked passages):

-- light mortaring;
-- 191 tons of resupply;
-- Khe Sanh attack expected "within a week";
-- enemy 324B division heading for Quang Tri.

W. W. Rostow
This is report number thirteen on the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 16, 1968.

During the reporting period the relative calm continued in northern Quang Tri province with interruptions caused by enemy shelling. While ground contacts were minimal, the Khe Sanh combat base and neighboring areas bordering the DMZ received a total of 222 rounds of mixed mortar, artillery and rocket rounds.

Characteristic of enemy shelling, Marine elements at Khe Sanh combat base bore the heaviest concentration as 23 mortar rounds and seven rounds of rocket impacted in the area. Casualties attributed to the shelling were one killed, 10 wounded (8 evacuated).

A mid-afternoon barrage brought 42 rocket rounds, 31 rounds of mortar and three artillery rounds to friendly elements at Camp Carroll, resulting in five wounded (two evacuated). The 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines at the rockpile counted two additional rounds of artillery in late evening. At Con Thien, the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines was the recipient of 18 rounds of mixed caliber mortars. Eight additional rounds of mortar were received by friendly elements at C-3 causing major injuries to three Marines.

Harassment moved northeasterly as a mid-day artillery barrage brought 14 rounds to friendly elements positioned at Gio Linh. Fourteen additional mortar rounds were received near the Cua Viet, at positions occupied by the 1st AMTRAC Battalion. Casualties attributed to the day's incoming were light and damage was reported minimal.

Significant contacts in northern Quang Tri centered in the DMZ with sightings of three reported enemy tanks 12 kilometers north of Con Thien. Reaction was instantaneous as friendly tanks and artillery fired several missions earmarked for their locations. Results are unknown at this time.

No COFRAM type ordnance was used during the period. There were no changes in the dispositions of friendly forces and Allied armament.
In the Khe Sanh area, the enemy still threatens with two divisions, and most evidence points to an attempted assault within a week. Friendly firepower, however, is undoubtedly hurting the enemy there and may further disrupt his timing. New instructions to the 324B Division apparently committed it to a new assault on Quang Tri and they are moving in that direction. The 320th seems to have backed off from Camp Carroll to fill the void created by the departure of the 324B. Threat of major ground assault against Camp Carroll is apparently reduced.

Tactical Air Support for the Khe Sanh totalled 388 sorties. Marine aircraft flew 80 sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area. Bomb damage included one secondary explosion and one secondary fire. The Air Force flew 232 sorties and the Navy flew 76 (27 Navy sorties were diverted because of weather). Bomb Damage Assessment included 35 secondary explosions, eight secondary fires, and 10 mortar positions damaged. The secondary explosions and fires resulted from strikes put in against a supply area. The Forward Air Control reported yesterday that the enemy had made attempts to remove munitions and weapons from the area, however, there were still areas where supplies of weapons, munitions and rice remain. ARC LIGHT strikes for the period in the Niagara area totalled 16 strikes (44 sorties).

Khe Sanh was resupplied with 191 short tons on February 16. A total of 21 sorties were delivered, including seven air drops by C-130 aircraft. Seven Air Force C-123 aircraft landed at the airfield as did Marine helicopters.

During the next 24-hour period, the Marine Air Wing will fly 44 tactical air sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area, with 16 additional aircraft on call to run sorties as the situation indicates. The Air Force plans to run 150 sorties, and the Navy schedules 100 sorties. Total tactical air effort will be 294 sorties. The ARC LIGHT effort will total 16 strikes (48 sorties) in the Niagara area.

The weather for the period resulted in fog and stratus on both days reduced the ceiling and visibility to zero during the morning hours. The visibility improved to seven miles by noon of the 16th but was again lowered by fog after 11:00 p.m. Ceilings improved to 500-1000 feet during the afternoon and early evening hours. During the next 24-hour period, in the mornings of both days the visibility will be restricted to less than one mile by fog, but will increase to five miles or more from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 p.m. Ceilings will be 1000 feet or less except from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
information

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

---TOP SECRET---

Saturday, February 17, 1968 -- 12:10 pm

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's report to Bus Wheeler.

You will note that Westy now concludes that "the long-heradled second wave of enemy attack may start tonight; i.e., today Washington time."

You will note also (para 5) Westy's concern about the NEWSWEEK leak on Abrams' new head-quarters. This raises the question of whether we cannot clamp-down military censorship at least in E-Corps.

Walt Rostow

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 10-16-78 Letter
By IG, NARS, Date 3-16-79

---TOP SECRET---
CHAIRMAN
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Mr. Clark Clifford
The White House

Read by Mr. Clifford
17 Feb 5:30 p.m.
The White House
Washington

Monday, February 19, 1968
10:10 a.m.

Mr. President:

In I Corps (attached):

-- shelling and light ground contact;

-- 160 tons delivered by air drop despite continued bad weather.

Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority 050 10-18-79 Letter
By JF, NARS, Date 3-16-79
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This report is number fifteen on the situation in the Khe Sanh area and covers the 24-hour period of February 18, 1968.

Activity in the northern First Corps continued to focus on enemy shelling; as 175 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery rounds were distributed among friendly elements bordering the DMZ. Forty rounds of mortar and 35 rounds of artillery impacted at Khe Sanh Combat Base in positions occupied by the 26th Marines, which resulted in one Marine wounded.

Marines positioned at Camp Carroll, received a mid-day barrage of 42 rounds of mortar with two intermediate rounds of artillery. Friendly casualties were: one killed, nine wounded (four evacuated).

Three small craters were caused at C-2 outside Con Thien, as three rounds of mortar were aimed at friendly elements. Marine elements at Con Thien and Gio Linh received 33 and 8 rounds respectively, none of which inflicted casualties nor caused significant damage.

Ground contacts in northern Quang Tri were limited to two light skirmishes, both inflicting moderate enemy losses while causing only minor injuries to friendly elements. Five North Vietnamese Army were killed at the hands of a 37th ARVN Ranger Patrol east of Khe Sanh, in an early morning contact which inflicted no friendly casualties.

There were a total of 358 tactical air sorties flown in the Khe Sanh area during the period. Marine tactical air flew 78 sorties, reporting four secondary explosions and one secondary fire. The Air Force flew 215 sorties, and the Navy flew 65. The weather was workable only for combat sky spot strikes, with a few isolated attempts to put in visual strikes. Bomb Damage Assessment was correspondingly bad. There were 12 ARC LIGHT strikes (35 sorties) flown in the Niagara area. For the next period, 19 - 20 February, 354 tactical air sorties will be flown in the Khe Sanh and surrounding areas. The Marines will fly 44, the Air Force 210, and the Navy 150. There will be 15 ARC LIGHT strikes (45 sorties) flown in the Niagara area.
Air resupply for the reporting period amounted to 160 short tons of which 133 short tons was ammunition.

No COFRAM type ordnance was used during the period.

Weather at Khe Sanh during the period was bad. Low clouds and dense fog reduced the ceiling and visibility to less than 500 feet and one mile throughout the period. Most of the time the ceiling and visibility were near zero. Little change is expected on 19 - 20 February. The sky will be obscured by low stratus clouds and fog. Ceilings and visibilities will be near zero except for a slight improvement to a ceiling of 400 feet and visibility of 1/2 mile from 2 PM to 6 PM on 20 February.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJ: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. You will have received General Westmoreland's 15th report on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area. Attached hereto is an operations/intelligence summary of events of the past two days. I have also attached a copy of the trip report of General Bruce C. Clarke, U.S. Army (Retired) giving his impressions during his recent trip to South Vietnam. General Clarke was accompanied by Mr. Frank W. Mayborn of Temple, Texas whom I am sure you know.

2. Due to communications difficulties between Washington and Hawaii my telephone conversation with General Westmoreland was not possible until 0830 hours. He provided the following information:

   a. Yesterday an OP-2E aircraft with a crew of 9 was shot down in the MUSCLE SHOALS area while laying sensors.

   b. The ground control approach equipment was knocked out at Khe Sanh yesterday; there is a backup set available and it is being installed.

   c. Light contact continues with the enemy in the vicinity of Dalat.

   d. The stickiest situation at present is at Phan Thiet. The enemy force which penetrated the town, seized the jail and the hospital, still occupies about one-third of the town. It continues to hold the hospital area and occupied bunkers outside of town. Despite the fact the force has lost 103 men killed, the going to clear the town is tough and proceeding slowly.

   e. There continue to be contacts with the enemy north of Saigon and south of Saigon. In a heavy contact south of Saigon Vietnamese Marine Corps units killed 144 enemy.

   f. North of Tay Ninh City an enemy force apparently preparing rocket positions was discovered and attacked, resulting in 60 enemy KIA.
g. Certain new units of the enemy have been identified near Song Be. These appear to be groups of replacement which have been formed into combat units to continue enemy pressure in the Song Be area.

h. The enemy has been driven out of Vinh Long. There was some damage to the Cathedral in the town and 58 enemy were killed.

i. The Riverine force had a contact with the enemy south of Can Tho. Results are not yet known.

3. He anticipates that there may be additional enemy activity in the Khe Sanh area tonight; however, this is not positive information.

4. The additional battalion of the First Cavalry Division which I reported yesterday as moving to the Quang Tri area began closing into Quang Tri today.

5. As a general observation, General Westmoreland stated that the enemy continues to hang in close to the cities. The enemy is apparently attempting to resupply his forces and bring up replacements and reinforcements.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
INFORMATION

The White House
Washington

TOP SECRET

Tuesday, February 20, 1968
10:55 a.m.

Mr. President:

The first two pages are Bus Wheeler's report of his morning conversation with Westmoreland. I have marked the key elements.

Attached is a full length NMCC (National Military Command Center) report which you saw early this morning in summary form.

W.R.

Rostow

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 10-2-75 letter
By NARS, Date 3-16-79
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. You have already received General Westmoreland's 16th report on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area. In addition, I am attaching hereto the Presidential operational/intelligence brief (you may have already seen this but I wish to make sure that it comes to your personal attention). Moreover, I am attaching a sheet setting forth two or three late items of interest.

2. I talked to General Westmoreland at 0810 hours this morning. He made the following comments:

   a. After talking to General Vien and analyzing information from intelligence reports, he has called a full alert tonight in the Saigon area, and he is particularly arranging to defend the Tan Son Nhut airbase. There is a reported increased threat north of Saigon with fresh elements of the 6th NVA and 9th VC Divisions moving into the area. It is also reported that villagers are fleeing to get out of the way of their advance. Among other precautionary measures, General Westmoreland has organized a provisional defense battalion from the MACV Staff.

   b. A few rocket rounds were fired in the direction of Tan Son Nhut today; one fell on the runway; one landed in an open field, and one apparently went into the city. He now has complete aerial photographic reconnaissance of the rocket site area and the photo interpreters have picked up several suspected rocket sites for attack by air.

   c. A new rocket round was found north of Saigon today; it is a 170 mm round in diameter and has a range of about 9,000 meters.

   d. In general, the enemy is hanging in close to Saigon and gives no indication of withdrawal.

   e. The Song Be situation has cleared up; the enemy has been driven out of the town.

   f. The city of Phan Thiet has been cleared of the enemy after a hard fight.
g. The enemy has been cleared out of Vinh Long, but there seems to be a buildup commencing south of Can Tho by a new enemy battalion of picked-up troops.

3. He conferred with General Vien today. The latter is concerned about the fatigue factor on the ARVN. They have been fighting continuously now for over two weeks. He has been trying to push the ARVN out into the country, but this is difficult to do when the enemy continues to stay in close to the populated areas.

4. Enemy KIA now stands at over 38,000. General Westmoreland recognizes that some of them are undoubtedly porters and other support elements. He has charged his J-2 with trying to get a break out of the enemy casualties so that he will be able to estimate the effect of enemy losses on his combat elements.

5. As a general observation, after visiting all of the Corps Areas and senior commanders, if General Westmoreland had to make an estimate now as to further troop reinforcements he will need, he will probably require the remainder of the 82d Airborne Division. He is not asking for it at this time because he believes that he will have a better feel for the problems facing him when I visit him within the next couple of days.

Earle G. Wheeler
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Mr. President:

Another quiet day at Khe Sanh/DMZ:

-- mortar fire less;
-- 143 tons delivered;
-- weather continues poor.

Wade. Rostow
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number seventeen on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 20, 1968.

A small unit encounter and intermittent enemy shelling constituted the principal activity in northern First Corps yesterday. The pace of enemy incoming fire slackened somewhat during the period. Incoming to friendly forces bordering the DMZ totaled 124 rounds of mixed caliber mortar and artillery.

A marked decline in enemy efforts was evident yesterday as only 69 rounds of mortar fell at Khe Sanh. Five kilometers east of Ca Lu, the Marines received six rounds of mortar and an equal amount of artillery rounds. The ramp at Dong Ha received six mid-afternoon rounds of artillery, causing minor injuries to two Marines. Elements of the Marines at Camp Carroll bore 13 enemy rounds of mortar; and finally Marines, at Con Thien received 28 rounds of mortar in an early morning barrage. Casualties attributed to the shelling: 10 Marines wounded (five evacuated).

In ground contact during the day, a contact at Thon Le Xuyen confirmed nine North Vietnamese Army killed and captured seven POW's, two recoilless guns, one mortar and nine individual weapons. Casualties to friendly forces were: three killed, eight wounded (evacuated).

There were a total of 296 tactical air sorties flown. The Marine aircraft wing flew 64 sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area. Bomb Damage Assessment included three secondary explosions, two secondary fires. The Air Force flew 146 and the Navy flew 86. The weather was still unsuitable for any but combat sky spot missions.

Thirty-nine B-52's flew 13 strikes in the Niagara area.

DECLASSIFIED
SECRET Authority OSD letter JAN 3 1979
By [Signature], NAR, Date 6-25-79
Aerial resupply for the reporting period amounted to 143 short tons. In addition, 90 passengers were flown into the airfield in three C-123 aircraft. Eleven C-130 completed 11 airdrops.

There was one COFRAM mission of 15 rounds fired on the basis of a sensor report of enemy troop movement. Results were unobserved.

For the next 24-hour period, the Marines will fly 44 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force will fly 148, and the Navy plans 100, for a total of 292 sorties. There will be nine ARC LIGHT strikes (27 sorties) flown in the Niagara area.

Weather at Khe Sanh during the period produced low clouds and dense fog and reduced the ceiling and visibility to near zero except from 2:00 PM to 4:00 AM when the ceiling improved to 100 - 500 foot overcast and the visibility from 1/4 to five miles in fog. The forecast for Khe Sanh for the next 24 hours is for little change.
Mr. President:

Herewith Bus Wheeler's report on today's call to Westy.

Main item: firepower now allocated to try to clean up Hue by the end of this week.

Gen. Johnson will report the daily phone call in Bus' absence.

W. W. Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: JCS 10-2-78 letter
By: NARS, Date: 3-16-79
SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. You will have already received General Westmoreland's 17th report on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area. Additionally, I am attaching hereto a copy of the Presidential operations/intelligence brief of salient activities over the past twenty-four hours, together with a sheet of recent items which you will find of interest.

2. General Westmoreland reported that the situation was generally quiet and that he had little of significance to add to what is in the operational/intelligence brief. He made really only two points:

   a. General Abrams, located at Headquarters MACV Forward in the Hue/Phu Bai area, conferred today with General Cushman, over-all Marine Commander; General Lam, the Vietnamese I Corps Tactical Zone Commander; and General Tolson, Commander of the U.S. First Cavalry Division. The subject of their conference was the situation in Hue and how best to deal with it. General Westmoreland has agreed to send one troop of U.S. armored cavalry (units such as this are equipped with medium tanks) to Hue tomorrow to provide additional armored firepower to friendly forces operating against a heavily dug-in enemy. Moreover, he is providing an additional ten 105-mm recoiless rifles to the Vietnamese Marine Corps battalions which are fighting in the Citadel in order to give them more mobile destructive power against enemy bunkers. He thinks that with the added firepower Hue can be cleaned out by the end of this week.

   b. Another new weapon, a 107-mm rocket made by the CHICOMS, has been picked up in-country. He describes the projectile as being about 42 inches long and weighing 40 odd pounds; no launcher has yet been captured. The technical intelligence people estimate that this weapon would have a range of between 4,000 to 5,000 meters. Samples of this weapon will be provided to technical intelligence agencies in the United States for further evaluation.

3. General Westmoreland has arranged for me to see President Thieu, Vice President Ky, and General Vien during my stay in Vietnam. Ambassador Bunker has also made arrangements for me to confer with him and key members of the mission.
staff.

4. During my absence General Johnson, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, will talk by telephone to General Westmoreland each morning to provide you with the updates of the situation. I shall, of course, communicate with you and the Secretary of Defense promptly any significant items which cannot await my return next week.

Earle G. Wheeler
EARLE. G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff
TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER EIGHTEEN ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH AREA AND COVERS THE 24-HOUR PERIOD FEBRUARY 21, 1968.

ENEMY EFFORTS INTENSIFIED IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE YESTERDAY AS 690 ENEMY ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR, ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FELL ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS. ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS CENTERED AT KHE SANH AS FRIENDLY ELEMENTS RECEIVED 250 MORTAR-rounds, 50 rounds of artillery and 70 rocket rounds, causing minor injuries to 22 Marines. One rocket round impacted on the airstrip temporarily closing the facility to C-130 traffic. The airstrip is now open to all normal traffic.

AT CAMP CARROLL, ELEMENTS OF THE 4TH AND 9TH MARINES, FROM 3:00PM TO 5:50PM, WERE RECIPIENTS OF 15 rounds of rocket, 33 rounds of mortar, 38 rounds of artillery, with one rocket round landing on the 3D battalion, 4TH Marines, five kilometers east of CA LU. Casualties were recorded as 13 wounded in action (nine evacuated).

FIVE NOONTIME rounds of artillery fell at DONG HA COMBAT BASE, WITH THREE ADDITIONAL MORTAR rounds falling at dusk. HEAVY MID-DAY BARRAGES FELL ON CON THIEN AS ENEMY LAUNCHING POSITIONS DELIVERED 55 rounds of artillery and 48 rounds of mortar. Three Marines were wounded from the shelling with one evacuated. IN NEIGHBORING GIO LINH, 17 ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY rounds impacted on friendly positions. FINALLY, A 24 HOUR LULL in enemy shelling at the CUA VIET was ended as positions occupied by 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION BORE 64 rounds of ROCKETS and 45 rounds of ARTILLERY, WITH CASUALTIES ATTRIBUTED TO THE DAY’S BOMBARDMENT INCLUDED FOUR KILLED IN ACTION, EIGHT WOUNDED IN ACTION (TWO EVACUATED).
GROUND ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE WAS LIMITED TO AN ESTIMATED COMPANY SIZE PROBE AT KHE SANH. BY DARK ACTIVITY HAD CEASED. RESULTS ARE UNDETERMINED.

A TOTAL OF 234 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE SANH AREA. THE MARINE AIRCRAFT WING FLEW 82 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED FOUR SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, ONE SECONDARY FIRE. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 138 SORTIES, AND THE NAVY FLEW 64 SORTIES. WEATHER DIFFICULTIES REQUIRED USE OF COMBAT SKY SPOT. B-52'S FLEW FIVE STRIKES (15 SORTIES) IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AERIAL RESUPPLY FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 172 SHORT TONS. IN ADDITION, 71 PASSENGERS WERE LANDED AT THE KHE SANH AIRFIELD. A TOTAL OF 17 SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT. FOURTEEN C-130 AIRCRAFT MADE TEN AIR DROPS. A SINGLE C-123 AND TWO HELICOPTERS LANDED.

SEVEN ROUNDS OF COFRAM ORDNANCE WAS EXPENDED RESULTING IN FOUR ENEMY KILLED.

SIXTEEN B-52 STRIKES (48 SORTIES) WILL BE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA FOR THE NEXT 24-HOUR PERIOD. THERE WILL BE 292 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES FLOWN DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER AT KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD AGAIN CONSISTED OF LOW CLOUDS AND DENSE GROUND FOG REDUCING THE CLOUD CEILING AND SURFACE VISIBILITY TO NEAR ZERO. DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON HOURS THE CEILING IMPROVED SLIGHTLY TO 400 - 1000 FEET BROKEN AND THE VISIBILITY TO THREE MILES IN FOG. THE FORECAST FOR KHE SANH FOR TOMORROW IS MORE ENCOURAGING. THE CLOUD CEILING AND SURFACE VISIBILITY WILL GRADUALLY IMPROVE FROM NEAR ZERO CONDITIONS TO A 2000 FOOT CEILING AND SIX MILES VISIBILITY BY 2:00PM. AFTER 5:00PM THE CEILING AND VISIBILITY WILL GRADUALLY LOWER TO NEAR ZERO AND REMAIN SO THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PERIOD.

DTG 22/1319Z FEB 68

SECRET EYES ONLY
HEREWITH GENERAL JOHNSON'S REPORT ON HIS MORNING CONVERSATION WITH WESTY.

1. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAD JUST COMPLETED A CALL TO GENERAL ABRAMS AT MACV FORWARD LOCATED AT HUE/PHU BAI. GENERAL ABRAMS STATED TO GENERAL WESTMORELAND THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME HE, GENERAL ABRAMS, WAS PERMITTING HIMSELF TO BE SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED. HE HAD VISITED THE AMERICAL DIVISION AND THE 2D ARVN DIVISION ON 22 FEBRUARY AS WELL AS THE ELEMENTS OF THE 3D BRIGADE, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION, THAT HAVE ARRIVED AT CHU LAI. THE BRIGADE HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS MOVE. BOTH THE AMERICAL AND THE 2D ARVN DIVISION ARE PERFORMING EFFECTIVELY AND ARE STEPPING UP OPERATIONS AWAY FROM THE POPULATED AREAS ONCE AGAIN. GENERAL ABRAMS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE EXPERIENCE LEVEL IN THE 3D BRIGADE, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION WAS VERY HIGH; THAT THEIR ATTITUDE WAS EXCELLENT; AND THEY WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE RECEPTION GIVEN THEM BY GENERAL KOSTER OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION. IT IS GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S INTENTION TO EASE THE BRIGADE INTO COMBAT OPERATIONS SLOWLY SO THAT TEAMWORK TRAINING WITHIN THE BRIGADE CAN BE REFRESHED FULLY.

2. THE THREE VIETNAMESE MARINE BATTALIONS IN HUE HAVE MADE SLOW PROGRESS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF DIRECT-FIRE HIGH VELOCITY WEAPONS. TEN 106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES ARRIVED IN HUE/PHU BAI ON 22 FEBRUARY AND WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE VIETNAMESE MARINES ON 23 FEBRUARY TO CORRECT THIS DEFICIENCY. IN ADDITION, BRIGADIER GENERAL OSCAR DAVIS, ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION, IS LOCATED AT THE FIRST DIVISION COMMAND POST WITH GENERAL TRUONG, THE FIRST ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER. GENERAL DAVIS IS ACTING AS FIRE COORDINATOR FOR GENERAL TRUONG, AND GENERAL WESTMORELAND INDICATED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT IS WORKING WELL.

3. THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION HAS ENCOUNTERED FOUR ENEMY BATTALIONS NORTH AND EAST OF HUE AND IS IN HEAVY CONTACT WITH THESE UNITS. THE DIVISION COMMANDER REPORTED SOME SUCCESS BUT HAS NOT REPORTED ANY DETAILS. FURTHER, TWO 8 INCH HOWITZERS HAVE ARRIVED NEAR QUANG TRI TO REINFORCE THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION AND AN ADDITIONAL TWO ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN POSITION TOMORROW (23 FEBRUARY) AT THE SAME LOCATION. THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION CAPTURED 12 PRISONERS. INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THREE DIFFERENT ENEMY REGIMENTS ARE REPRESENTED BY THE 12 PRISONERS. GENERAL WESTMORELAND DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, BUT HE EXPECTS TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION FROM INTERROGATION THAT WILL BE EXPLOITABLE IN TERMS OF IDENTIFYING SOME INDICATION OF ENEMY INTENTION.