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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96222
Combat Operations Center

MACCOC

24 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Commander's Guidance

1. On 24 February 1968 at III MAF Headquarters, General Westmoreland accompanied by General Wheeler, received briefings on current operational situation from MGen Peers, DCG, II FFORCEV and from General Abrams and LTGen Cushman on I CTZ matters.

2. At the conclusion of the III MAF briefing, General Westmoreland issued the following guidance:

a. In order to contend with the multiple threat posed by the enemy in I Corps North, III MAF has been heavily reinforced. In providing these reinforcements, COMUSMACV has utilized all of his reserves. II Corps is an economy of force area, and III and IV Corps have been reduced to a point where further reinforcements cannot be obtained, under present conditions. Therefore, CG III MAF and DEPCOMUSMACV will develop a contingency plan for the application of strict economy of force measures in I CTZ South of AI VAN PASS in order to have additional forces earmarked for operations in I Corps North, if required. In developing such plans, the enemy threat in the North should be considered not only in KHE SANH, DMZ and CAMP CARROLL areas, but also along ASHAU Valley and on approaches to HUE from the west. HUE must be considered as a primary target.

b. A comprehensive reconnaissance plan will be developed to ascertain the dimensions of enemy movement in ASHAU Valley and on the road leading out of the valley near TABAT. If weather precludes air insert of reconnaissance elements, ground reconnaissance and exploitation forces (possibly from 1/101st Bde) will be employed.

c. Arc Light targets for ASHAU area will be developed to include the road network.

3. Ref. No. 3.3
4. 24 Feb 1968
5. WARA Date 1-29-90

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Westmoreland

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