

25  
Monday, February 19, 1968  
6:30 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

The new round of coordinated attacks on urban centers and military facilities has thus far lacked the scope and intensity of the Tet offensive.

The majority of the attacks, consisting principally of mortar and rocket fire, were focused on the southern provinces, with only scattered actions reported from the central and northern regions. Less than ten of the more than 40 cities and bases that were hit suffered follow-up ground probes.

The heaviest ground assaults appear to be at Vinh Long in the delta and at Phan Thiet on the coast east of Saigon. Reports from Phan Thiet as of late last night indicate that fighting was continuing. The province hospital in the town was still occupied by the enemy.

Tan Son Nhut received some 100 rounds of mortar and rocket fire yesterday with moderate losses to personnel, aircraft and facilities; sporadic shelling is continuing again today. Sharp skirmishing has been reported in outlying areas of Saigon with one report having a railroad bridge leading into the city being destroyed and heavy fighting going on in the area for control of the bridge.

In Hue, Marine and ARVN units continued intensive combat operations in and around the Citadel to clear remnants of an enemy force along the southeast section of the walled city. Altogether, friendly forces reported 70 enemy killed and 14 weapons captured during the fighting in the city yesterday.

In northern Quang Tri province, ground activity was light, with two brief patrol actions initiated by friendly forces resulting in 13 enemy killed. Bases in the area reported 175 rounds of mortar and artillery fire with 75 rounds impacting at Khe Sanh.

As a result of an intelligence report that enemy were in the area, 7 miles north of Qui Nhon, a Regional Force company made contact with an enemy force yesterday which lasted for 8 hours. Three Regional Force personnel were killed, 7 were wounded and 2 are missing as a result of this action, while 14 enemy were killed, 13 bunkers destroyed, and miscellaneous documents and equipment were captured.

As of yesterday afternoon, sporadic small arms and automatic fire was reported in the city of Vinh Long. The enemy reported taken over the Cathedral and heavy fighting was taking place in

outskirts. Interim results are 10 ARVN killed and 30 wounded compared with 45 enemy killed, 12 detained, and 30 weapons captured.

North Vietnam

Phu Yen airfield near Hanoi, and Cat Bi airfield near Haiphong were struck yesterday as US pilots flew 114 sorties over the North.

Cumulative casualties since January 29

|                  | <u>Killed</u> | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>Captured</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Enemy            | 36,594        |                | 6,204           |
| United States    | 1,356         | 7,105          |                 |
| South Vietnamese | 2,604         | 9,577          |                 |

White House Situation Room

*Arthur McCaffery*  
Briefing Officer