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(15)

Tuesday, February 13, 1968
6:30 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

South Vietnam

Operations to clear the enemy from the Saigon area continue. There were no significant actions reported in the city last night. Scattered reports have been received from areas outside the capital of possible movements of large enemy forces. B-52 strikes were flown against suspected concentrations outside the city during the night.

The Bien Hoa airbase was hit by seven rounds of rocket fire yesterday afternoon. Three aircraft received minor damage, but have been repaired and are now flyable. The air base remained operational.

The Khe Sanh combat base received 37 rounds of mortar fire last night during a 25-minute attack. Two Marines were wounded. Shortly thereafter, a patrol from the South Vietnamese Army Ranger battalion at Khe Sanh engaged an enemy force approximately 500 meters southeast of the airfield. No reports have been received on this contact.

US Marine and ARVN units are still engaged in house-to-house fighting in their efforts to clear the enemy from the Citadel in Hue. Yesterday, enemy resistance was concentrated primarily at three fortified points along the southern portion of the Citadel wall. The damaged Phu Cam River bridge on Highway 1 on the southeastern edge of Hue has been secured by US Marines and is being repaired by engineers.

Allied forces made a sweep of the Revolutionary Development area in Quang Tri yesterday, resulting in 12 enemy killed, one a ranking officer of the 808th Viet Cong Main Force battalion attached to the 5th North Vietnamese regiment. The enemy is still exerting pressure on lines of communication in the province, mostly by indirect fire attacks.

Reports from the Fourth Corps indicate the night passed quietly, with only about 15 Viet Cong attacks reported, none of which was an attack on a province capital.

North Vietnam

US aircraft flew 99 sorties over the North yesterday. No major targets were struck because of poor weather conditions over the target areas.

Four US aircraft engaged two MIGs north of Kep Ha airfield and hitting one. When last seen the MIG was in an uncontrollable spin and is considered destroyed.

Civilian casualties

Incomplete reports on civilian casualties since January 29 show that 3,041 were killed and 10,096 were wounded. The totals will undoubtedly be much higher since no reports have yet been received from First Corps.

Cumulative military casualties as of midnight

| | <u>Killed</u> | <u>Wounded</u> | <u>Captured</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Enemy | 32,549 | | 5,528 |
| United States | 1,073 | 5,488 | |
| South Vietnamese | 2,245 | 8,373 | |

White House Situation Room

Arthur M. Gaffney

Briefing Officer