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Wednesday, November 15, 1967  
10:50 a.m.

Mr. President:

I have marked up the attached copy of a special report on Dak To fighting in the period 3-14 November.

In sum:

-- Enemy forces of some 7000 have been engaged: we have built up U. S. and ARVN forces of 9000.

-- Thus far enemy killed are estimated at 636; friendly, 102.

-- The purpose is, at the maximum, to achieve a limited dramatic tactical victory over a major U. S. military unit; at the minimum, to draw forces to the frontier, away from pacification -- as at the DMZ.

W. W. R.

~~TOP SECRET~~ attachment (Dak To Special Report 15 Nov 67)

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)  
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983  
By kg, NARA, Date 11-21-91

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DAK TO SPECIAL REPORT

Dak To is located in the northern portion of the 2d Corps near the tri-border area (Cambodia - Laos - Vietnam) in extremely rugged terrain. Intelligence indicates that enemy objectives in the western highlands include the annihilation of a major US element in order to draw to and tie down in the area additional friendly forces. As a result, action consisted of numerous contacts in an area approximately 16 nautical miles around Dak To. Contact with enemy forces was initiated on 3 November when US Army units in Operation MAC ARTHUR reported three separate contacts in an area 3 nautical miles south of Dak To (OPSUMS 259-67 and 260-67). (C)

On 6 November a US Army battalion engaged enemy forces in the same general area killing 104. Sixteen US were killed and 27 were wounded in the action. (OPSUMS 261-67 and 262-67). (C)

On 8 November in an area centered 4 nautical miles west of Dak To, a US Army company on a search and destroy mission engaged an unknown-size enemy force in fortified positions. The enemy broke contact leaving 12 dead. In another contact on 8 November a few miles farther southwest, three US Army companies on a sweep found 232 enemy bodies and 21 individual and 14 crew-served weapons in an area that had been under friendly tactical air and artillery fire. On 10 November, a US Army battalion made heavy contact with an unknown-size enemy force dug-in 4 nautical miles south-southwest of Dak To. Six US were killed and 24 wounded. The enemy withdrew after 2 hours leaving 14 dead. (OPSUMS 264-67 and 265-67). (C)

There were three significant enemy contacts on 10 and 11 November. In the first contact 11 nautical miles west-southwest of Dak To, two US Army companies engaged an unknown-size enemy force. Two additional US Army companies maneuvered to exploit the contact and became heavily engaged with a well dug-in enemy. In the ensuing action US and enemy units launched numerous attacks and counter-attacks. Heavy fighting continued throughout the day with

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EO 12356, Sec 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

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friendly units finally overrunning the enemy positions after approximately 7 hours of fighting. The enemy left 103 dead; 20 US were killed and 132 wounded. The second contact occurred 7 nautical miles southwest of Dak To when three US Army companies sweeping an area of a previous contact engaged an unknown-size enemy force for approximately 4 hours. The enemy then broke contact leaving 92 dead and 1 person detained; 18 US were killed and 119 wounded. In the third contact, a US engineer truck convoy was attacked by an unknown-size enemy force 16 nautical miles southwest of Dak To. The enemy broke contact leaving nine dead and one detained; US losses were five killed and seven wounded. (OPSUM 265-67) (C)

On 13 November a US Army battalion had a heavy 2-hour engagement with an unknown-size enemy force 12 nautical miles southwest of Dak To. US casualties were 9 killed, 21 wounded, and 6 missing. Enemy losses were unknown. (OPSUM 266-67) (C)

Cumulative results of contacts in the Dak To area during the period 3-14 November are -- friendly: 102 KIA, 529 WIA, 6 MIA; enemy: 636 KIA, 137 individual weapons and 29 crew-served weapons seized. The status of friendly and enemy units in the vicinity of Dak To is shown on the following page. (C)

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