

20
INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

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

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's latest on Khe
Sanh.

W. W. Rostow

~~SECRET~~

WWRostow:rla

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By RG, NARA, Date 12/19/92

LIBRARY

~~SECRET~~

20a
SANITIZED

Friday, February 9, 1968

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the fifth report on the Khe Sanh area and covers the 24 hour period of Thursday, February 8, 1968.

During the period the Khe Sanh Combat Base and the surrounding area continued to receive sporadic mortar, rocket, and harassing small arms and sniper fire. A total of 21 Marines were killed and 27 were wounded and evacuated. There were 124 enemy killed, one captured, and 27 individual and 23 crew-served weapons captured as a result of the enemy mortar and ground attack on the Marine Company yesterday morning.

Marine aircraft flew 49 sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area while the Air Force flew 101, and the Navy flew 77, for a total of 227. Ten secondary fires and one secondary explosion were reported. Three personnel carriers and a "tank-like" vehicle were destroyed, and 10 other vehicles were damaged. The latter was the action taken against the enemy tanks and vehicles sighted yesterday southwest and west of Khe Sanh.

Seven ARC LIGHT strikes (39) sorties were run in the Niagara area. Four of these strikes were in proximity to Khe Sanh. Marine units in the area fired 5543 rounds of mortar and artillery ammunition.

The Khe Sanh logistics position continues to improve. A total of 214 short tons of supplies were airlifted in during the period for an increase of 87 short tons. The bulk of the airlift was the delivery of 140 short tons of ammunition. 41.5 short tons of engineering equipment, including bunkering material, and 24 short tons of vehicles were also delivered. Airlift resupply is being accomplished with Air Force C-130 and C-123 Aircraft and Marine C-130 and CH-53 helicopters. The 26 days of individual combat rations reported yesterday was not correct. The revised status of these ratios is 12 days. The ammunition stocks are adequate, the lowest being 11 days for the 105 MM howitzers. No COFRAM type ordnance was used during the period.

SANITIZED

Authority OSD 1-3-79, CIA 1-14-80

By 423 kws, Date 1-17-80

~~SECRET~~

SANITIZED COPY

COPIES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
COLL. IN LIBRARY

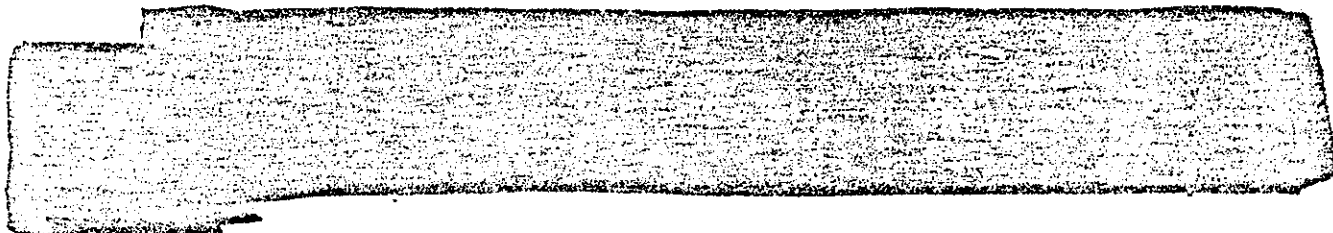
~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

For the next period, four ARC LIGHT strikes (27 sorties) will be flown in support of Khe Sanh. Marine tactical air plans 44 sorties (additional 16 on call), the Air Force plans 74 sorties, and the Navy 52, in support of Khe Sanh, for a total of 172 sorties. The Air Force will also have 128 tactical air sorties on call, and a potential of diverting pre-planned strikes from other areas for a total of 631 sorties (Air Force 381, Navy 250).

There is no new information on enemy identification, strengths, and capabilities.

The weather in the Khe Sanh area for the early afternoon of the 8th February was good but about 2:00 PM it became marginal. Fog formed at about 8:00 PM making the weather poor for the rest of the night and for the morning of the 9th. The forecast for the afternoon of the 9th is for marginal weather. The formation of fog by 8:00 PM will make the rest of the night poor with improvement to marginal again by noon on the 12th.



COPY
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY
COPY LIBRARY