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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CAP73393
LITERALLY EYES ONLY FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR GENERAL
WESTMORELAND

THERE IS SOME IRRESPONSIBLE TALK IN THE NEWSPAPERS
ABROAD AND HERE TODAY THAT WE HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE
IN YOU.

I WISH TO TELL YOU IN THE BLUNTEST AND MOST DIRECT
WAY I CAN THAT I HAVE NEVER DEALT WITH A MAN IN WHOM
I HAD MORE CONFIDENCE. YOU AND YOUR VIETNAMESE COLLEAGUES
HAVE, IN MY JUDGMENT, DEALT WITH THE ATTACK ON THE
CITIES WELL.

IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT YOUR LEADERSHIP AND ELLSWORTH'S
WILL BRING US MUCH FURTHER AHEAD A MONTH FROM NOW THAN
WE OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN.

LET US MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

I BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ASKED FOR HAS BEEN
SUPPLIED.

AS YOU GO INTO THIS BATTLE, YOU HAVE MY FULLEST POSSIBLE
CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT

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~~SANITIZED~~

Authority OSD 10-25-78; NSC 8-14-80

By JK NARS, Date 8-20-80

NNNN

~~COPY~~

Lyndon B. Johnson Ltr

Confidential

Eye only

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DRAFT -- February 5, 1968

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOR GENERAL WESTMORELAND

irrefutable

and here

There is some talk in the newspapers here and abroad today that
we have lost confidence in you.

I wish to tell you in the bluntest and most direct way I can that I
have never dealt with a ~~military~~ man in whom I had more confidence.

You and your Vietnamese colleagues have, in my judgment, dealt with
Well.

the attack on the cities superbly. There is no point crowing about it now

But it is my judgment that with your leadership and Ellsworth's, ~~if the~~

~~Vietnamese can rally themselves to exploit the Communist setback, we~~

will bring

~~us~~ will be much further ahead a month from now than we otherwise would

have been. Let us make that happen. ~~As for Khe Sanh, it was my duty~~

~~to make sure that all the questions that could be asked were asked and~~

~~answered. Now you and the JCS have answered them. The time for~~

~~questioning is over.~~ I believe that everything you have asked for has been

supplied.

As you go into this battle, you have ~~the~~ ^{my} fullest possible confidence
and support of ~~your~~ Commander in Chief.

W. H. Guidelines
SANITIZED

Authority OSD 10-25-78 NSC 874-80

By jk/rjg NARA, Date 2-7-92

TRANFERRED TO HANDWRITING FILE