

41
INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

Thursday, February 8, 1968
2:15 p.m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

Herewith Gen. Westmoreland
explains why he believes the enemy
casualty figures are accurate.

W. W. Rostow

mac 01754

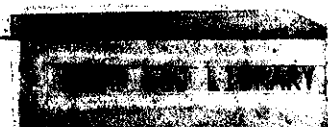
~~SECRET~~

WWRostow:rlm

DECLASSIFIED

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By *ly*, NARA, Date *1-31-92*



44a
RECEIVED
ONCA

THIS DOCUMENT
IS UNCLASSIFIED

1963 FEB 8 17 17

ZCZCKABC60NKA235QAC319
OO YEKADS
DE YSPKQA 33 0391616
ZKZK OO NRL DE
C 081550Z ZYH ZFF-5
FM GENERAL WHEELER, CJCS, WASH DC
INFO MR HELMS, CIA
MR RUSK, STATE DEPT, WASH DC
MR ROSTOW, WHITE HOUSE, WASH DC
GEN JOHNSON, CSA, WASH DC
GEN MCCONNELL, CSAF, WASH DC
WDM MOORER, CNO, WASH DC
ZEW/GEN CHAPMAN, CMC, WASH DC
O 072350Z ZYH ZFF5
FM GEN WESTMORELAND
TO GEN WHEELER CJCS
ADM SHARP CINCPAC
ZEM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NLS/CBS 7

By is, NARS, Date 7-25-83

Loaded

Rostow

~~SECRET~~ MAC 01754 EYES ONLY

1. THE HIGH ENEMY CASUALTY FIGURES HAVE CAUSED A GOOD DEAL OF CONSTERNATION OUT HERE TOO. I TOO HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THEM AT FIRST, BUT AS THE FACTS OF THE GENERAL SITUATION AND INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS COME IN, THE KIA FIGURES LOOK REASONABLE. THE ENEMY COMMITTED VIRTUALLY EVERY VC UNIT IN THE COUNTRY REGARDLESS OF COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND REGARDLESS OF NORMAL AREA OF OPERATIONS. THEY WERE COMMITTED WITH DO-OR-DIE ORDERS, FORBIDDEN TO RETREAT, AND WITH NO WITHDRAWAL OR RALLYING PLANS. THE ENEMY ATTACKS MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS A COUNTRY-WIDE SERIES OF "LOC NINH". THE VERY

HIGH CASUALTIES ARE NOT STRANGE IN THIS LIGHT.

2. WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, PROVIDE A VERY PRECISE BREAKDOWN OF CASUALTIES BY TYPE OF ENEMY FORCE. IT APPEARS NOW THAT BY FAR THE BULK OF THE ENEMY DEAD ARE FROM VC MAIN AND LOCAL FORCES OR NVA TROOPS COMMITTED IN I AND II CTZ'S. EVIDENCE TO DATE DOES NOT INDICATE THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF GUERRILLAS WERE USED. WE HAVE INFORMATION OF MANY NEW AND VERY YOUNG RECRUITS IN THE COMMITTED FORCES, BUT NO REPORT YET OF A POW WHO IS A GUERRILLA. I DO NOT DOUBT THAT SOME OF THE ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE GUERRILLAS, PORTERS, AND SUCH, BUT THE PERCENTAGE WILL PROBABLY BE SMALL.

3. THE ENEMY OBVIOUSLY BANKED HEAVILY ON SURPRISE IN HIS YET OFFENSIVE. THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR MINIMAL PARTICIPATION BY GUERRILLAS. HE MAY NOT HAVE WISHED TO DISSEMINATE PLANS AS BROADLY AS LARGE SCALE PREPARATION OF GUERRILLA FORCES AND PORTERS WOULD REQUIRE.

4. YOUR JCS 01463 FEB 63 ON POSSIBLE USE OF NVN AIR IN LZ HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

P-3

SO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

EVERY MAN OF ARMS