

INFORMATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

Thursday, February 8, 1968
2:00 p.m.

51
Pres file

Mr. President:

Herewith a supplementary from
Gen. Wheeler on Khe Sanh.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rln

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By lly, NARA, Date 1-31-92



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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

CM-2972-68
8 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Situation in the Khe Sanh Area

You have received General Westmoreland's fourth report on the Khe Sanh area, covering the period through 11:00 PM EST, 7 February 1968. I have received additional information from General Westmoreland and Admiral Sharp which is reported in the succeeding paragraphs.

General Westmoreland informed me that he has issued instructions to General Weyand (Commanding General, II Field Force) to arrange for a US unit to be brought into the race track area of Saigon. This will release Vietnamese troops to put more pressure on enemy elements in the city. Although General Westmoreland is reluctant to take this step, he feels that it is essential to push ARVN to greater action to clean up Saigon. Additionally, as I told you yesterday, he plans to move a battalion of the 101st Airborne Division to Hue/Phu Bai. Also, a Vietnamese Marine Battalion will be moved to Hue/Phu Bai to replace one of the depleted Vietnamese airborne battalions in that area. He indicates that he may follow these deployments with two more Vietnamese Marine Battalions into that area.

You may be interested to know that, yesterday, as a result of an ambush of an enemy party by US forces west of Saigon, a North Vietnamese passport containing a Cambodian visa, stamped Phnom Penh, and a baggage claim check from Phnom Penh, were taken from one of the bodies. The party had a sophisticated radio, believed to be single sideband. It was reported that this appeared to be a most important group.

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Authority J. Allotta 10-3-78

By SP/1, NARA, Date 2-3-92

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For Distribution

Regarding the North Vietnamese air threat, Admiral Sharp has assured me that all concerned have been watching this activity closely and that all forces have been alerted to this potential threat. In this regard, air strikes are being conducted daily at Vinh and Bai Thuong airfields to preclude their being used as forward staging bases for MIG operations. These airfields are being seeded with 500 pound bombs with influence fuzes (Mark 36s) as necessary to harass and disrupt repair operations. Additionally, fighter cover is being provided for B-52's operating in the DMZ and Mu Gia Pass areas. A full report on the air threat will be provided separately as requested by you.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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