

~~TOP SECRET~~

Tuesday, February 13, 1968
4:00 p. m.

EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

Pres file
You should know:

General Taylor again raised the question of whether we should hold Khe Sahn. He believes we could protect the coastal cities of I Corps further to the west.

(Incidentally, we now have in the Situation Room a terrain map that suggests how tough the situation is there. You may wish to drop down and see it.)

If we decide to pull out, he believes we should not pull out when Khe Sahn is under maximum seige, but sooner -- to upset the enemy's plan by moving west after he's dug in, emplaced his guns, and then has to follow westward.

He does not recommend we instruct Westy to get out.

He does recommend:

-- another round of questioning of our Khe Sahn strategy, led by yourself;

-- on the basis of that, the raising of any questions we may have in a way that doesn't leave Westy feeling either cut on a limb or mistrusted -- but, perhaps, with more flexibility.

If we did such a thing we would, in my judgment, require a plan to attack his force, at our initiative, at a time and place of our choice.

the enemy's to Cognac

W. W. Rostow

~~TOP SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

DECLASSIFIED

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

By JK/fg, NARA, Date 2-14-92