



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

CM-3007-68
13 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Telephone Conversation with General Westmoreland

1. I conferred by telephone with General Westmoreland at 0800 hours. In addition to the brief of operations attached hereto and his ninth report on the Khe Sanh area which has already been provided to you, he provided the following comments on the situation:

a. A rallier from the 812th Regiment of the NVA 324B Division, currently located south of Quang Tri, stated that enemy propaganda to North Vietnamese troops emphasizes four points: (1) 80% of South Vietnam has been liberated by the enemy during the Tet offensive; (2) the war will end if every man and unit put forth maximum effort; (3) the ARVN is deserting to the enemy in large numbers; (4) the United States has no more troops to furnish to the South Vietnamese conflict.

b. The situation is looking better to him in all areas. US Marines had a heavy contact during the day near Hue, and the 1st Cavalry Division had a heavy contact north of Hue. He does not have details of this action as yet.

c. The Soviet model 120 mm mortar was employed yesterday near Can Tho in the Delta for the first time.

d. Dalat has been cleared of enemy forces.

e. Enemy elements still hang on in the Citadel in Hue. The third of the three ARVN Marine Battalions which will replace the ARVN Airborne Battalions in this action will move into Hue tomorrow. The situation in the Hue area was

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better today enabling air support to be employed; the forecast is that the weather will be better tomorrow also.

f. In Saigon, small enemy groups continue to be encountered in Cholon, but there appears to be no organized resistance. There have been sporadic contacts with enemy groups of 20 to 30 men to the north of Saigon.

g. The C-130 which was damaged by enemy fire while delivering supplies in Khe Sanh has been repaired and flown out. This was a gallant, dangerous, and tough effort because the repair crews had to work all night with lights shielded in order to avoid enemy fire.

h. The Riverine Force moved by water to the vicinity of Can Tho yesterday afternoon (Saigon time). Its objective is an enemy force south of Can Tho. He ordered this deployment in order to demonstrate that US forces are helping the ARVN in the area because VC propaganda directed at the population has stated that US forces have joined with VC forces to destroy the ARVN and overthrow the Saigon government.

i. He is employing additional barrier sensors and gravel in the Khe Sanh area. Preliminary information indicates that this effort is being helpful.

2. General Bruce Clarke and Mr. Frank Mayborn of Temple, Texas, met with General Westmoreland yesterday. Both seemed to be impressed by what they had seen.

3. He regrets that I cannot come to Saigon and visit with him now; he hopes that I can come later when things have quieted down so that he can discuss the over-all situation with me.

4. General Westmoreland raised with me rather diffidently the quantity and the detail of reports being requested of him from Washington. Back channel traffic has been extremely heavy and

duplicative requests for information are frequent. A recent request for much detail to be on the wires from his headquarters at 0400 hours in the morning is requiring him to change his reporting cycle in order to honor the request. He expressed the hope that, except for the daily telephone conversations with me, requests for information can be handled through the NMCC in order to preclude duplication and reduce volume. Note: The NMCC has constantly opened and manned at both ends a voice circuit to the MACV Combat Operations Center as well as a teletype service.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER

Chairman

Joint Chiefs of Staff

*P.S. Inadvertently omitted from the above:
General Westmoreland expressed his
gratitude at the prompt affirmative
response to his request for troop
reinforcements.*

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