

information

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Monday, February 12, 1968
8:30 a.m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's daily report on
Khe Sanh.

We will send up shortly a table on
the supply situation.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rlm

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By 48, NARA, Date 2-10-92



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Monday, February 12, 1968, 8:20 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the eighth report on the Khe Sanh area and covers the 24-hour period of February 11, 1968.

During the period the Khe Sanh Combat Base and the surrounding area continued to receive heavy enemy shelling by mortars, rockets, and artillery. By 1:00 AM the shelling had subsided to sporadic incoming and terminated at 3:00 AM. Early Sunday morning a 122MM rocket impacted 15 feet away from a Air Force C-130 in the process of off-loading troops, resulting in one killed and four wounded and evacuated. The aircraft was damaged, but repairs are underway and hopefully it can be flown out today.

A helicopter conducting medical evacuation on Hill 861 received small arms fire resulting in one wounded and evacuated.

Two Navy aircraft dropped eight tanks of tear gas on a village eight kilometers southwest of Khe Sanh and followed with air strikes. No movement was observed from the village.

For the period there were four Marines killed and eight wounded, including those mentioned above. Two thousand two hundred and five rounds of mortar and artillery were fired by friendly forces. Tactical air sorties for the period totalled 258, Marine Tactical Air flew 75 sorties, and reported one road cut, four secondary fires, and one tank destroyed. The Air Force and Navy Tactical flew 88 and 95 sorties respectively, reporting six road cuts, four military structures destroyed, one secondary explosion, eight secondary fires, and one bridge damaged. Five ARC LIGHT strikes (33 sorties) were flown in the Niagara area.

Aerial resupply of Khe Sanh increased to 83 short tons on February 11. Ammunition and engineer bunkering material accounted for 40 and 25 short tons respectively. Seventeen short tons of replacement were delivered along with one short ton of medical supplies. C-123 Aircraft are providing air landed delivery to the Khe Sanh Airfield and air drops from C-130 Aircraft began at 11:00 hours.

No COFRAM Type Ordnance was used during the period.

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Authority OSD 170-1/3/79

By 1/18 NAE

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For the next 24 hours Marine Air Plans 44 Tactical Air Sorties, the Air Force will run 74, while the Navy plan 100, for a total of 218 tactical air sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area. I have just instructed Momyer to increase the above with emphasis in the B-52 ring.

The Marines will have 16 aircraft on call. The Air Force will have 120 sorties on call. There will be five ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) run in the Niagara area.

There is no change in enemy unit identification in the area.

The weather was poor on the afternoon of February 11. Cloud ceilings were 500 to 700 feet and visibilities were 3 to 5 miles in fog. By 6:00 PM the fog increased and visibility was reduced to 1/16 of a mile. The weather remained poor all night and through the morning hours. The weather is forecast to remain poor until about mid-morning on February 13. During this period cloud ceilings will remain 600 feet or lower and visibilities will be near zero at night. Late on the morning of the 13th weather should improve to marginal.

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