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25a
February 15, 1968

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The President wants General Westmoreland to know that he has freedom of action to conduct his military operations as he thinks wise from a military point of view without being inhibited by political or psychological factors originating in the United States. To the extent that such factors in South Vietnam itself are an important part of the struggle, General Westmoreland should take these into account in close consultation with Ambassador Bunker and President Thieu.

Specifically with regard to Khe Sanh, the President does not wish to inhibit General Westmoreland's judgment as to when, where and under what circumstances he wishes to fight his battles. If General Westmoreland wishes to defend Khe Sanh, he will be supported; if he wishes to avoid a major engagement there, the President will also support him.

In short, General Westmoreland has the President's complete confidence.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 91-188
By *[Signature]*, NARA, Date 4/30/96

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