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

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CM-2999-68
10 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Situation in Vietnam

You have received General Westmoreland's sixth report on the situation in the Khe Sanh area for the period through 11:00 PM EST, 9 February 1968. I talked to General Westmoreland at 8:00 AM EST this morning and obtained the information on the situation in Vietnam which is contained in the succeeding paragraphs.

General Westmoreland assesses the current situation as similar to that which prevailed in China in 1948, in that the Red Chinese moved their people into the cities and then besieged the cities. In this connection, he is continuing his preparations for an anticipated second cycle of attacks. He is also striving to reopen the roads, so as to permit the resupply of food. He reports that there is plenty of rice in Saigon and Danang.

General Westmoreland considers that the enemy may use tanks in the eastern part of the DMZ area, and he is sending General Abrams to talk to the commanders in that area about this potential threat. General Westmoreland is concerned about the impact a tank attack might have upon the ARVN units, and accordingly, General Momyer is developing plans for the use of Napalm and Zuni rockets against any tank attack in that area.

The Hue/Phu Bai area is, as was reported yesterday, being reinforced by three Vietnamese Marine Battalions. Presently, three-fifths of the city is controlled by South Vietnamese forces; however, General Westmoreland estimates that there are some 2,000 Viet Cong still in Hue.

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Authority JCS 172 10-3-78
By ip/ky, NARA, Date 2-10-92

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There are five battalions of the Americal Division south of Danang. There was heavy fighting there yesterday, and it is reported that elements of the 2d North Vietnamese Division are now pulling back.

The KC-130 which was destroyed in Khe Sanh was hit on landing by a 12.7 mm machine gun; as the aircraft landed, the POL aboard exploded.

The II Corps area was relatively quiet. There is still fighting in Dalat, but we are making headway there. Elements of the 33d North Vietnamese Regiment have been located south of Ban Me Thuot along the river. Kontum is quiet. In Dak To, a lieutenant who defected from the 174th North Vietnamese Regiment reported that one-third of his regiment had been killed. In Binh Dinh Province, the ROK forces have been doing well, killing some 800 members of the 3d North Vietnamese Division in the Qui Nhon area.

In Long An Province, 123 enemy were killed and 17 captured, one of whom was a North Vietnamese from Cambodia - - significantly, several brand new weapons, of Red Chinese make (still in cosmoline) were captured. In the capital, Viet Cong assassins killed eight policemen.

General Westmoreland has intelligence of an expected attack on Tan Son Nhut tonight, and has made preparations for this.

The IV Corps area was also relatively quiet. The Riverine Force killed 83 enemy in the My Tho area, where there is an enemy build-up. General Westmoreland hopes to reopen Highway 4 by Sunday night.

MACV Forward, the Provisional Field Army Headquarters which I mentioned in my memorandum to you yesterday, has opened. General Abrams will operate from that headquarters from time to time.

Earle G. Wheeler

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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