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Saturday, February 10, 1968, 9:15 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the sixth report on the Khe Sanh area and covers the 24-hour period of February 9, 1968 (Washington time).

During the reporting period the Khe Sanh Combat Base and the outlying areas continued to receive sporadic shelling from mortars, with occasional rocket rounds reported.

The night of February 9 - 10 was characterized by brief contacts with exchanges of small arms fire and grenades. At 10:15 AM EST a Marine Listening Post about three kilometers northwest of the Khe Sanh Base received small arms fire and grenades in conjunction with a ground attack by an estimated 35 to 40 enemy. The Listening Post withdrew to the company perimeter and the Marine Company then received seven satchel charges in the perimeter wire, with two enemy penetrating the outer wire. In the face of the defense action, the enemy did not press the attack. This action resulted in two Marines killed and three other receiving minor wounds. The extent of the enemy casualties is unknown.

At midnight last night C-130 aircraft received enemy fire about two miles southwest of the Khe Sanh airstrip while approaching for a landing. The aircraft caught fire and was completely destroyed, resulting in two killed, four critically injured, and three missing.

During this period Marine Tactical Air flew 34 sorties. The Air Force flew 66 sorties, the Navy flew 63, for a total of 163 sorties in the Khe Sanh Area. The Marine air strikes produced several secondary explosions while the Air Force reported three secondary explosions, four secondary fires, and three trucks destroyed.

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Authority OSD 1-3-79; CIA 1-14-80

By lis, NARS, Date 1-17-80

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Photo reconnaissance obtained confirms the presence of several PT-76 tanks in the Lang Vei area. There were four ARC LIGHT strikes (27 sorties) run in the Niagara area in support of the Khe Sanh Base and its environs.

On February 9 the Ground Control Facility at the Khe Sanh was rendered inoperative due to enemy fire. As a result only three C-130 aircraft were able to resupply with 32 short tons of cargo. Twenty-two short tons of the resupply was petroleum, oil, and lubricants, and the remaining ten short tons were individual combat rations. The level of stocks of all classes remains adequate. The Ground Control equipment was back in operation today. No COFRAM type ordnance was used during the period. For the period midnight Friday to midnight Saturday EST, there will be six ARC LIGHT strikes (39 sorties) flown in the Niagara area. Marine tactical air plans 44 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, while the Air Force has 88 sorties planned, and the Navy has 100 planned, for a total of 232 sorties. The Air Force has 120 additional sorties on alert.

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

On February 9 the weather was poor in the afternoon with cloud ceilings of 700 feet and fog. By 4:00 PM the weather conditions began to deteriorate with zero visibility by 8:00 PM. The weather improved to marginal early Saturday morning and there was good visibility. The weather then remained marginal the rest of the morning. The forecast for the period noon Saturday to noon Sunday is for marginal weather to continue until about 8:00 PM. At this time the formation of fog will make the weather poor with visibilities of less than 1 mile. Conditions will improve to marginal by 11:00 AM on February 11 with ceilings of 1200 feet.

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INFORMATION