

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~ URGENT

February 24, 1968

FROM WALT ROSTOW
FOR THE PRESIDENT

Paul Nitze just called. He said that Westy has asked urgent permission that the South Vietnamese who are sharing in the defense of Khe Sanh be permitted to use the COFRAM special ammunition, especially in the form of grenades. They will be bearing some of the shock of ground attack if and when it comes. In fact, the enemy may try to concentrate on them. Westy feels strongly that they should have the best that we have for the defense. The JCS concur. Paul Nitze concurs.

Westy wanted an urgent decision because he thinks the attack may begin at any time and the South Vietnamese must be instructed.

Finding that you were away for an hour, I told Paul that he should give Westy an assent and prepare to begin to instruct the South Vietnamese at Khe Sanh; but that I would lay the matter before you for final decision.

It is my understanding that in Europe and in Korea, where we also have this ammunition stockpiled, we have always envisaged sharing it with our allies at a time of combat.

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NLJ 96-258
By hig, NARA Date 9-23-96

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