

Tuesday, March 12, 1968
10:15 a.m.

Pres file
20

MR. PRESIDENT:

At Khe Sanh:

- poor weather;
- 150 rounds enemy fire;
- 343 sorties plus 36 B-52's;
- 207 tons delivered.

W. W. Rostow

~~SECRET~~ attachment

SECRET

302

Tuesday, March 12, 1968, 9:30 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-seven on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 11, 1968.

~~Unfavorable weather conditions~~ continued at Khe Sanh during the reporting period, as fog with intermittent drizzle persisted throughout most of the morning and evening hours. Low ceilings lifted somewhat during the afternoon hours, permitting limited fixed wing support. Enemy anti-air incidents were light as only two aircraft were fired on and one was hit with minor damage.

During the period enemy activity was confined to incoming artillery, rocket and mortar rounds. There were no ground contacts reported. ~~A total of 150 rounds of mixed caliber fell on the Khe Sanh area during the day.~~ Casualties attributed to the shelling were three killed and 23 wounded (eight evacuated).

In the DMZ area, enemy shelling comprised the majority of enemy activity with no significant casualties or damage reported. In the vicinity of the Cua Viet river, elements of the 3rd and 4th Marines received 15 mortar rounds and 12 artillery rounds. One Marine was wounded. In ARVN operations, elements of the 2nd Regiment were in heavy contact throughout most of the day, north of Dong Ha. Initial friendly casualties are recorded as 22 killed and 65 wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. Sweep operations continue.

There was one COFRAM mission of six rounds fired with undetermined results.

Marine aircraft flew 123 sorties, the Air Force 134, the Navy 86, for a total of ~~343 sorties~~. Bomb damage assessment included 14 road cuts, three automatic weapons positions destroyed, one rocket position destroyed, one bridge destroyed, two bunkers destroyed, eight secondary explosions, 19 secondary fires, and 15 enemy killed by air. There were six ARC LIGHT strikes (~~36 sorties~~) scheduled, however, three aircraft went to secondary targets due to beacon malfunction. Three strikes were within 1300 - 2800 meters of friendly troops.

SECRET

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Authority DSG to 1/3/79

By 414, NARA, Date 3-3-92

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A total of ~~207~~ short tons of supplies were airlifted into the Khe Sanh area during the period. In addition, ~~one~~ short ton of mail and 93 passengers were lifted into the base. A total of 28 resupply sorties were flown, eleven air drops by C-130 and two by C-123, and 15 sorties by Marine helicopters.

For the next period, 308 tactical air sorties are scheduled. In addition, the Air Force will have 120 alert sorties, and the Marines will have 16 aircraft on call. Five ARC LIGHT strikes (30 sorties) are scheduled.

The weather forecast for March 12 is for improving conditions to 800 foot ceilings and two mile visibility by mid-morning, and to 2500 to 500 foot ceilings and 7 - 10 miles visibility by early afternoon. Conditions will again deteriorate after sunset, reducing ceilings and visibility to less than 500 feet and one mile by midnight.