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INFORMATION

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Monday, March 11, 1968 -- 9:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

Khe Sanh-DMZ:

- weather less good;
- enemy fired 250 rounds;
- 178 tons delivered;
- 328 sorties plus 36 B-52's;
- our supply base at Cua Viet, at Eastern end of DMZ but quite badly by lucky enemy round;
- major successful further ARVN fire fight at Dong Ha, 102 enemy killed, 7 captured.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rlm

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Authority OSD Ltr 10-18-78
By iplr, NARA, Date 3-3-92

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Monday, March 11, 1968, 8:45 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-six on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 10, 1968.

Low ceilings and drizzle prevailed at Khe Sanh through most of the reporting period, with a consequent decline in the number of air strikes flown. Light enemy anti-air incidents were recorded as only two aircraft were fired on with minor damage reported to one. Enemy activity was confined to incoming mortar, artillery and rocket rounds with 250 rounds of mixed ordnance falling during the day. Two Marines were killed and 15 wounded, four of whom required medical evacuation.

No significant ground contacts were reported. Enemy activities at other installations in northern Quang Tri paralleled activity at Khe Sanh. No ground contacts were reported by Marine units. However, enemy shelling was damaging. The day's incoming included 10 rounds of artillery falling at A-3. Camp Carroll received 10 mortar rounds. No casualties or damage was reported in either instance. Several artillery rounds fell at positions occupied by the 4th Marines at C-3, with no damage or casualties reported.

Beginning at 7:30 AM on March 10, the Dong Ha combat base received 70 rounds of rocket and 82 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery resulting in three killed and 14 wounded, with seven evacuees. At 9:00 AM, one incoming round landed at the landing ship tank ramp on the Cua Viet. The round struck a drum of fuel, spread into the fuel farm causing secondary fires. The fires subsequently set off several rounds of ammunition. Eighty-five percent of the ramp was reported destroyed. Damages included destruction of five trucks, several buildings, two fuel tanks, one artillery weapon, three communications vans, one crane, three fork lifts and a guard tower. The bladder farm was reported 33 percent destroyed. Initial casualties were recorded as one killed and 28 wounded.

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By ip/18, NARA, Date 3-3-92

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ARVN operations in northern Quang Tri Province included a large contact north of Dong Ha. In Operation Lamson 193, elements of the 2nd ARVN Regiment engaged a large size enemy force. Fighting continued throughout the day. Friendly casualty figures were recorded as three killed, 37 wounded. A total of 102 enemy were killed with 20 individual and five crew served weapons captured. Seven North Vietnamese Army prisoners were captured.

Marine aircraft flew 80 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 141, and the Navy 107 for a total of 328 sorties. Bomb damage includes two trucks destroyed, 42 road cuts, 14 secondary explosions. 43 secondary fires, three bunkers and 140 meters of trench destroyed, 13 enemy killed, seven gun positions destroyed, and 14 structures destroyed. There were six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) scheduled into the Niagara area, however, four aircraft went to secondary targets due to targetting equipment and aircraft malfunctions. Three strikes in the Niagara area were classified as close-in targets, ranging from 1300 - 1800 meters from friendly forces.

During the period, 178.5 short tons of supplies were airlifted into Khe Sanh. In addition, 92 passengers were flown in. In all, a total of 18 sorties were flown. Twelve C-130's conducted eleven air drops. Five C-123's conducted three air drops and two landed at the field. One helicopter landed at the field.

For the next period, 307 tactical sorties are scheduled. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) are scheduled.

The morning of March 10 at Khe Sanh was foggy with visibility as low as 1/8 mile at mid-morning. Low clouds remained through the afternoon. After dark, fog formed again restricting visibilities to 1/16 mile by the morning of March 11. The forecast is for continued cloudy weather, with fog during the morning hours and after 8:00 PM at night, lowering visibilities to 1/2 mile after midnight.