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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP80577

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Authority OSD letter 1/3/79

By 4/14, NARA, Date 3-3-92

~~SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 26, 1968

HERewith WESTY'S DAILY KHE SANH REPORT. GENERAL IMPRESSION:
THEY ARE INCREASING THEIR PRESSURE ON THE BASE, WITH BOTH ARTILLERY
AND GROUND PROBES.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-TWO ON THE SITUATION
IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD
FEBRUARY 25, 1968.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD WAS LIMITED
TO ENEMY INCOMING ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS,
WITH SPORADIC GROUND CONTACTS. A TOTAL OF 689 ENEMY
ROUNDS WERE FIRED AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN NORTHERN
QUANG TRI PROVINCE. 350 ROUNDS FELL AT KHE SANH, IN
POSITIONS HELD BY THE 26TH MARINES, RESULTING IN THREE
MARINES KILLED, 52 WOUNDED (32 EVACUATED). MATERIEL
DAMAGE INCLUDED TWO HELICOPTERS DESTROYED, AND
TWO DAMAGED. CONDITION OF THE KHE SANH RUNWAY
WAS REPORTED TO BE POOR.

CAMP CARROLL RECEIVED FOUR ARTILLERY ROUNDS. AT
DONG HA, 22 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY FELL AT NOON, INFLECTING
SERIOUS INJURIES TO ONE MARINE. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS
CAUSED TO THREE COBRAS AND FOUR LIGHT OBSERVATION PLANES.
AT C-2 AND SURROUNDING AREAS, THE MARINES RECEIVED 18 ROUNDS OF
MIXED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR. 260 ARTILLERY ROUNDS AND 25 ROUNDS
OF MORTAR FELL AT CON THIEN. LIGHT SHELLING RECURRED
AT CUA VIET AS THE 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION RECEIVED TEN
ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY IN EARLY AFTERNOON SHELLING.

IN GROUND CONTACT DURING THE PERIOD, A SWEEP BY THE
30 BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, IN THE VICINITY OF THANH
XUAI RESULTED IN ONE ENEMY KILLED, AND ONE MARINE RECEIVED
MINOR WOUNDS.

IN ANOTHER GROUND CONTACT, A MID-MORNING PATROL FROM
B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 26TH MARINES ENGAGED AN ESTI-
MATED NVA COMPANY JUST SOUTH OF THE KHE SANH BASE. THE
CONTACT BROKE AT NOON WITH ONE MARINE KILLED, 21 WOUNDED
AND 25 MISSING. ENEMY CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN.

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IN OTHER ACTION WITHIN NORTHERN DMZ OPERATIONS, A MEDEVAC HELICOPTER CRASHED OUTSIDE HILL 881 (SOUTH) PERIMETER. PILOT AND CREW ARE SAFE WITHIN THE PERIMETER. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, THREE ENEMY SELF-PROPELLED GUNS WERE REPORTED 13 KILOMETERS WEST OF HILL 881. AIRSTRIKES WERE CONDUCTED BUT WEATHER PREVENTED DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. IN ANOTHER SIGHTING, THREE TANKS WERE REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF KHE SANH AND WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY AIR STRIKES WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

A TOTAL OF 229 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 85 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE INCLUDED TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, ONE SECONDARY FIRE AND ONE ROCKET POSITION DESTROYED. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 118 SORTIES, AND THE NAVY FLEW 34 SORTIES. BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT INCLUDED 30 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, ONE ROCKET POSITION DESTROYED, SEVEN SECONDARY FIRES, TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (30 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 162 SHORT TONS. IN ADDITION, 27 PASSENGERS WERE AIR LANDED. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 15 ON 25 FEBRUARY. NINE C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED NINE AIR DROPS. ONE C-123 LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD, WHILE TWO C-123 AIRCRAFT AIR-DROPPED MATERIAL AT THE DROP ZONE. THREE MARINE HELICOPTERS LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD.

FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, A TOTAL OF 286 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF THE KHE SANH AREA. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (21 SORTIES) WILL BE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

KHE SANH WEATHER DURING THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 25, WAS MARKED BY LOW CLOUDS AND FOG UNTIL 10:00 A.M. AT THAT TIME THE FOG DISSIPATED AND THE CLOUD CEILINGS IMPROVED TO 1600 FEET. VISIBILITY THEN REMAINED GOOD. THE FORECAST FOR 26 - 27 FEBRUARY IS FOR GOOD VISIBILITY UNTIL ABOUT 9:00 P.M. 26 FEBRUARY WHEN FOG WILL FORM AND CAUSE LOW VISIBILITY AGAIN. THE CLOUD CEILINGS DURING DAYLIGHT OF 27 FEBRUARY ARE EXPECTED TO BE UP NEAR 2500 FEET BUT LOWERING AT NIGHT TO 300 FEET OR LESS WITH FOG FORMATION.

THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT (ASP) STATUS AS OF 8:00 P.M. FEB. 25 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 P.M. 24 FEB EST (9:00 A.M. 25 FEB SVN)
CLASS I (RATIONS)		
MEAL, COMBAT,		
INDIVIDUAL	12	4 DAYS
B RATIONS	9	9 DAYS

CLASS III (FUEL)

AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	7.2	7.2 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	1	1 DAY
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	6.7	7.2 DAYS
DIESEL	6.8	5 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	23	23 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	13	14 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	33	30 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	21	22 DAYS
125-MM HOWITZER	18	19 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	19	16 DAYS

B. ANTI-TANK

ROUNDS ON HAND

90-MM HEAT	89
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	1,386
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	234
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	334
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	183
106-MM HEAT	144
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	866
3.5" ROCKET	950

PREVIOUS STATUS

DAYS SUPPLY	8:00 P.M. 24 FEB EST
ON HAND	(9:00 A.M. 25 FEB SVN)

CLASS V (COFRAM)

125-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	5	5 DAYS
40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5	5 DAYS
HAND GRENADES	10	10 DAYS

2. ON 25 FEBRUARY KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 162 TONS AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	32.5	TONS
CLASS III	22	TONS
CLASS IV	17.25	TONS
CLASS V	90	TONS
CLASS VII	2.25	TONS

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FROM: WALT ROSTOW
TO: THE PRESIDENT
CITE: CAP80582

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Authority *JCM 10-4-78 NSC 68-74-80*By *reply* NARA, Date *3-3-92**Pres file*~~TOP SECRET~~

FEBRUARY 26, 1968

1968 FEB 26 PM 1:07

SENT
MONDAY

HEREWITH WESTY REPORTS HIS NEW DISPOSITIONS:

- TO DEAL WITH A PROBABLE ATTACK (FEB. 27 OR 28) IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS (DAK TO-KONTUM-PLEIKU);
- AND TO GET THE ARVN BACK ON THEIR FEET AND MOVING, WHICH WILL HAVE GEN. ABRAMS' FULL ATTENTION, WITH GEN. CUSHMAN TAKING OVER THE I CORPS.

SUBJECT: GENERAL JOHNSON'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL WESTMORELAND

1. GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S DAILY REPORT NUMBER 22 COVERS THE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS NOW TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO BOTH THE NEAR-TERM AND LONGER-TERM FUTURE. IN THE I CORPS AREA HE INTENDS TO CONVERT MACV FORWARD TO A PROVISIONAL CORPS HEADQUARTERS TO COMMAND OPERATIONS NORTH OF AI VAN PASS. WHEN THIS CONVERSION TAKES PLACE, THE PROVISIONAL CORPS, THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION IN THE DA NANG-AI VAN PASS AREA AND THE AMERICAN DIVISION WILL BE SUBORDINATE TO III MAF HEADQUARTERS, COMMANDED BY GENERAL CUSHMAN. IT IS THE INTENTION TO CONCENTRATE NOW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FIRST ARVN DIVISION IN CLEARING THE ENEMY FROM THE COASTAL AREAS AND AS THE MONSOON SHIFTS, TO WORK AGAINST THE ENEMY AND HIS BASE AREAS TO THE WEST AWAY FROM THE COASTAL AREAS. IN THE MEANTIME, B-52 STRIKES WILL BE EMPLOYED AGAINST ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN THE A SHAU VALLEY. INTELLIGENCE TEAMS ARE STANDING BY WAITING FOR A WEATHER BREAK TO BE INSERTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE A SHAU VALLEY, TO GET BETTER INTELLIGENCE OF ENEMY ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA.

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2. SOME TROOP ADJUSTMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE II CORPS AREA. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 173RD BRIGADE HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE VICINITY OF KONTUM AND THE BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS WILL MOVE TO THIS AREA FROM BAN ME THUOT WITHIN THE NEXT 48 HOURS. THE ENEMY WHO HAVE THREATENED BAN ME THUOT (THE 33D NVA REGIMENT) APPEARS TO HAVE WITHDRAWN TO THE WEST. GENERAL WESTMORELAND ESTIMATES THAT THEY HAVE ONE OR TWO COMBAT EFFECTIVE BATTALIONS; THAT THEY ARE NOW ENGAGED IN RESTORING THEIR COMBAT STRENGTH; AND HE EXPECTS CONTACT WILL BE GAINED AGAIN WITH THIS UNIT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS FROM NOW. GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS DISCUSSED THE FRIENDLY TACTICAL POSTURE IN II CORPS WITH GENERAL ROSSON, AND THE TWO OF THEM BELIEVE THAT FORCES ARE WELL DISPOSED TO MEET ANY ATTACK IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, IF SUCH ATTACK TAKES PLACE.

3. GENERAL WESTMORELAND MET TODAY WITH GENERAL WEYAND AND GENERAL KHANG IN THE III CORPS AREA. FRIENDLY FORCES ARE DISPOSED TO MEET ATTACKS ON PROVINCE AND DISTRICT TOWNS IN THE CORPS AREA, ALTHOUGH NEITHER GENERAL WEYAND NOR GENERAL KHANG ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PREVENTING FUTURE ROCKET ATTACKS. THEY BOTH BELIEVE THAT THE FORCES CAN REACT RAPIDLY BUT CANNOT PREVENT THE EARLY ROCKET ROUNDS FROM BEING LAUNCHED.

4. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS PLANNING TO ASSIGN GENERAL ROSSON TO REPLACE GENERAL ABRAMS WHEN MACV FORWARD IS CONVERTED TO A PROVISIONAL CORPS HEADQUARTERS UNDER GENERAL CUSHMAN'S COMMAND. GENERAL ABRAMS WILL THEN RESUME HIS FULL-TIME DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES AND RENEW HIS FOCUS ON ARVN AND POPULAR AND REGIONAL FORCES. GENERAL WESTMORELAND IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO RETURN GENERAL ABRAMS TO THE PRIMARY TASK OF RESTORING FULL COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS IN THE ARVN.

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