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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP80652

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 16 1/3/79
By 1/14 NARA Date 7/3/92

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MARCH 4, 1968

HEREWITH THE DAILY KHE SANH-DMZ REPORT:

- 160 TONS DELIVERED;
- CONTINUED PROBING;
- CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES INFILCTED ON THE ENEMY, BOTH ON THE GROUND AND WITH ARTILLERY FIRE.

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-NINE ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD MARCH 3, 1968.

LIMITED VISIBILITY WITH LOW CEILINGS CONTINUED AT KHE SANH THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. DESPITE DISAGREEABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS, SEVERAL AIR OBSERVER CONTROLLED FIXED WING AIR STRIKES WERE EFFECTIVELY EXECUTED. DURING THE DAY ARTILLERY BATTERIES FROM THE 13TH MARINES FIRED 133 MISSIONS EXPENDING 1553 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION WITH EXCELLENT TARGET COVERAGE REPORTED. SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AMOUNTING TO 160 SHORT TONS WERE OFFLOADED DURING THE PERIOD AS RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT LANDED AND TOOK OFF WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. GENERALLY, ENEMY ACTIVITY AT KHE SANH DURING THE DAY WAS CONFINED TO SPORADIC INCOMING ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS AND HARASING PROBES.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE DURING THE PERIOD, WAS A SIGHTING MADE BY AN AIR OBSERVER AT 11:45 AM, NINE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF HILL 881. AN ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION WAS OBSERVED IN A COLUMN MOVING EAST. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY MISSIONS RESULTED IN A REPORT THAT 18 NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE KILLED. ELSEWHERE DURING THE DAY, THE MARINES FOUND TWO DIRECTIONAL MINES ON THE LEFT FLANK OF THEIR "D" COMPANY. ALTHOUGH ONE WAS DISARMED, THE OTHER DETONATED AND BLEW OPEN A SECTION OF THEIR DEFENSIVE WIRE. THIS MORNING "E" COMPANY RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM A LOCATION SOUTHEAST OF THEIR POSITION. ARTILLERY MISSIONS WERE CALLED, SILENCING THE FIRE. AT 1:05 AM THE 37TH ARVN RANGER BATTALION REPORTED A PROBE OF THEIR LINES. MORTAR ROUNDS AND ARTILLERY DEFENSIVE FIRES WERE EMPLOYED.

ENEMY INCOMING AT KHE SANH WAS COMPARATIVELY LIGHT YESTERDAY AS ONLY 180 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR STRUCK IN THE AREA. ALTHOUGH NO MATERIEL DAMAGE WAS REPORTED, 16 MARINES WERE WOUNDED. AT ADJACENT INSTALLATIONS BORDERING THE DMZ, ENEMY SHELLING CONTINUED DURING THE PERIOD, BUT A SLACKENED PACE OF 34 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND 20 ARTILLERY ROUNDS FELL AT CAMP CARROL WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES SUSTAINED BY ONE MARINE. AT DONG HA COMBAT BASE 15 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY MIXED WITH TWO MORTAR ROUNDS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN NOON AND 4:20 PM. THERE WERE NO INJURIES RECORDED. THE 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES AT A-3 RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 11 AFTERNOON ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY WITH NO DAMAGE REPORTED. OFFSHORE, SIX ARTILLERY ROUNDS WERE FIRED AT THE USS NEWPORT NEWS WITH THE NEAREST ROUND IMPACTING 200 YARDS AWAY, CAUSING NO DAMAGE TO THE VESSEL.

IN AN ALL DAY CONTACT A COMPANY OF MARINES SPOTTED 300 WELL EQUIPPED NORTH VIETNAMESE 1500 METERS WEST OF A-3. AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY WERE EMPLOYED. WHEN CONTACT CLOSED, 136 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE COUNTED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED (EVACUATED). AT POSITIONS 1500 METERS EAST OF A-3, MARINES ENGAGED A DUG-IN ENEMY FORCE. WITH ARTILLERY PREPARATORY FIRES IN SUPPORT, FRIENDLY UNITS ACCOUNTED FOR 21 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED WITH EIGHT INDIVIDUAL AND ONE CREW SERVED WEAPON CAPTURED. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE ONE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED. WHILE SWEEPING IN THE VICINITY OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE YESTERDAY, THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES FOUND 30 MORE NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES AND THREE ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. A LANDING CRAFT STRUCK A MINE 300 METERS SOUTHEAST OF MAI XA THI VILLAGE INJURING THREE MARINES AND DAMAGING THE VEHICLE.

THREE COFRAM MISSIONS WERE FIRED EXPENDING 59 ROUNDS, AND KILLING 9 ENEMY.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 275 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH AREA. THE MARINES FLEW 101 SORTIES, WITH BOMB DAMAGE REPORTED AS ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION, TWO SECONDARY FIRES, ONE AUTOMATIC WEAPON POSITION DESTROYED, AND 19 ENEMY KILLED. THE AIF FORCE FLEW 96 SORTIES AND THE NAVY 79, REPORTING 19 ROAD CUTS, ONE TANK DESTROYED, FOUR GUN POSITIONS DESTROYED, EIGHT ENEMY KILLED, ONE ARMORED VEHICLE DAMAGED, SEVEN SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, TEN SECONDARY FIRES, NINE MILITARY STRUCTURES AND TWO TRUCKS DESTROYED. FIVE ARC LIGHT STRIKES (39 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH FOR THE PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 162 SHORT TONS. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 23 FOR 3 MARCH. TEN C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED TEN AIR DROPS. THREE C-123'S COMPLETED TWO AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDED. TEN HELICOPTERS DELIVERED PASSENGERS AND CARGO.

TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT PERIOD WILL TOTAL 270 SORTIES. THERE WILL BE EIGHT B-52 STRIKES (48 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

THE MORNING OF 3 MARCH 1968 AT KHE SANH WAS CLOUDY WITH FOG AND OCCASIONAL LIGHT DRIZZLE. CONDITIONS IMPROVED DURING THE EARLY AFTERNOON WITH CEILINGS OF 1500 FEET AND VISIBILITY WHICH RANGED FROM 3 - 5 MILES IN FOG. AFTER 3:00 PM THE WEATHER AGAIN BEGAN TO DETERIORATE REDUCING CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY TO 500 FEET AND 2 1/2 MILES BY 9:00 PM. CONDITIONS WERE FURTHER RESTRICTED AFTER MIDNIGHT AND UNTIL THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 4 MARCH AS HEAVY FOG REDUCED VISIBILITY TO 1/16 MILE. LITTLE CHANGE IS FORECAST THROUGH 9:00 AM OF 5 MARCH. THE BEST CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED BETWEEN 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM WHEN CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY ARE FORECAST TO BE 1500 FEET AND SIX MILES. AFTER 9:00 PM HEAVY FOG WILL AGAIN REDUCE VISIBILITIES TO BELOW ONE MILE.

1. THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT STATUS AS OF 8:00 P.M. MARCH 3 IS AS FOLLOWS:

	PREVIOUS STATUS
DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	8:00 PM 2 MAR EST (9:00 AM 3 MAR SVN)
CLASS I (RATIONS)	
MEAL, COMBAT,	
INDIVIDUAL	18
B. RATIONS	10
	15 DAYS
	9 DAYS
CLASS III (FUEL)	
AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3
MOTOR GASOLINE (MUGAS)	9
DIESEL	8.7
	3 DAYS
	8.3 DAYS
	9.3 DAYS
	10 DAYS
CLASS V (AMMUNITION)	
A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE	
82-MM MORTAR	44
82-MM MORTAR	24
90-MM (TANK)	92
4.2" MORTAR	47
105-MM HOWITZER	13
155-MM HOWITZER	16
	44 DAYS
	24 DAYS
	92 DAYS
	47 DAYS
	14 DAYS
	16 DAYS
B. ANTI-TANK	
90-MM HEAT	1,059
66-MM ROCKET (LAWS)	3,531
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	158
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	668
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	0
105-MM HEAT	154
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	706
106-MM BEEHIVE	909
3.5" ROCKET	1,630
90-MM AP-T	329
	ROUNDS ON HAND

DTG: 041325Z MAR 68