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FROM WALT ROSTON
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP82653

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1988
By 16 NARA Date 3-26-92

HERewith A RATHER HEARTENING REPORT FROM WESTY ON THE MANPOWER SITUATION:

- U.S. FORCES, UP 5,000 NET SINCE 31 JANUARY
- REGIONAL FORCES COMPANIES ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF STRENGTH
- POPULAR FORCES PLATOONS ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF STRENGTH
- REGULAR ARMY BATTALIONS COMBAT EFFECTIVE HAVE RISEN IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS FROM 98 TO 118, OF THE TOTAL OF 155.

SUBJ: PRESENT STATUS OF RVNAF (U)

REF: JCS 02506 DTG 021842Z MAR 68 (S)

I. THE ASSESSMENT MENTIONED IN THE REFERENCE IS TO BE AS OF 29 FEB WITH ALL REPORTS TO BE IN FROM THE FIELD BY 8 MAR. EXPECT THIS DETAILED ASSESSMENT TO BE AVAILABLE 17 MAR. TO SATISFY YOUR IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT THE FOLLOWING INTERIM REPORT IS FURNISHED.

II. PERSONNEL STATUS.

A. FOLLOWING DATA OBTAINED FROM JCS. REPLACEMENTS WERE FURNISHED TO UNITS LISTED DURING PERIOD 31 JAN - 29 FEB:

(X) PERSONNEL LOSSES (KIA, WIA, MIA)		REPLACEMENTS
AIRBORNE DIVISION	1335	1539
MARINE BRIGADE	1001	437
RANGERS	992	3277
1ST DIVISION	2611	2240
2D DIVISION	432	499
3TH DIVISION	403	754
7TH DIVISION	721	556
9TH DIVISION	534	797
18TH DIVISION	181	879
21ST DIVISION	605	1117
22D DIVISION	217	587
23D DIVISION	473	455
25TH DIVISION	236	611
42D REGIMENT	138	402
51ST REGIMENT	234	368
TOTAL	9754	14,428

(X) PERSONNEL LOSSES ARE ONLY FOR THOSE REASONS INDICATED. NOT INCLUDED ARE SIGNIFICANT LOSSES INCURRED BY DESERTION AND DEATHS AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENTS, DISEASE, ECT. NO ESTIMATE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

B. RF/PF UNIT STATUS BELOW REFLECTS INFORMATION FURNISHED BY ADVISORS IN EACH CTZ. DATA ARE NOT COMPLETE, BUT ARE BEST AVAILABLE AS OF 1 MAR.

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68 MAR 4 AM 8:59

MONDAY

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THE PACE OF ENEMY INCOMING SLACKENED YESTERDAY, PARALLELING ENEMY SPOUND ACTIVITY, AS A COMPARATIVE LOW 157 ROUNDS OF MIXED ARTILLERY, ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS FELL DURING THE PERIOD. INCIDENT TO THE DAY'S SHELLING, TWO FATALITIES WERE RECORDED, WITH INJURIES SUSTAINED BY AN ADDITIONAL 23 MARINES. A C-123 AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED WHEN STRUCK BY INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS.

AT BORDERING INSTALLATIONS ALONG THE DMZ, ENEMY INCOMING FOLLOWED ITS NORMAL DISTRIBUTION. TWELVE ROUNDS OF MORTAR FELL AT CAMP CARROL INFLECTING INJURIES TO ONE MARINE. SIX MORTAR ROUNDS FELL AT CA LU. A RECONNAISSANCE TEAM OPERATING 10 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF CAMP CARROLL RECEIVED FIVE ROUNDS OF MORTAR. SIX ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY FELL AT DONG HA. AT A-3 AND GIO LINH, SIX AND 34 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY WERE RECEIVED RESPECTIVELY. THREE MARINES WERE INJURED FROM THE 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES, POSITIONED AT A-3. ARVN UNITS AT A-1 RECEIVED 57 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY. FINALLY, THE 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES IN OPERATION NAPOLEON/SALINE, RECEIVED 35 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY ROUNDS. DAMAGES ATTRIBUTED TO THE DAY'S SHELLING WERE MINIMAL.

GROUND CONTACTS IN NORTHEASTERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE ACCELERATED AS 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, WHILE SWEEPING THROUGH MAI XA THI VILLAGE IN CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE DAY, UTILIZED TANKS, NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR STRIKES; AND KILLED 36 NORTH VIETNAMESE WHILE CAPTURING FOUR INDIVIDUAL AND THREE CREW SERVED WEAPONS. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE LISTED AS 22 KILLED, 37 WOUNDED WITH SEVEN MISSING. IN LAM SON 187, AN ARVN BATTALION (1ST BATTALION, 1ST REGIMENT) ENGAGED A LARGE ENEMY FORCE SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTH-EAST OF DONG HA. WHEN CONTACT BROKE, 189 ENEMY BODIES WERE COUNTED WITH 32 INDIVIDUAL AND 14 CREW SERVED WEAPONS CAPTURED. ARVN LOSSES AMOUNTED TO SEVEN KILLED AND 24 WOUNDED.

AT 1159AM YESTERDAY, SIX NVA WERE KILLED EIGHT KILOMETERS NORTH OF GIO LINH IN THE DMZ BY AN ARTILLERY MISSION WHICH ALSO CAUSED SIX SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. AT 1228PM YESTERDAY, A FORWARD OBSERVER WORKING WITH THE 2D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, CONDUCTED A FIRE MISSION ON 50 NORTH VIETNAMESE ASSEMBLED IN THE OPEN 1000 METERS SOUTH OF A-3 RESULTING IN 20 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED. SEVEN ADDITIONAL NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE KILLED YESTERDAY AS A RESULT OF A FIRE MISSION ON NORTH VIETNAMESE IN THE OPEN THREE KILOMETERS SOUTH OF A-3. AT 4:45PM, A COMPANY, 3D BATTALION, 3D MARINES CAME IN CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF GIO LINH. INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE ONE MARINE WAS KILLED WITH ENEMY CASUALTIES UNKNOWN.

THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT WAS RECOVERED FROM THE ENEMY JUNK CAPTURED AT THE MOUTH OF THE CUA VIET: 44 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, 3600 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS, 210 KILOS OF TNT, 120 GRENADES, AND 125 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND AMMUNITION. AT 11:00AM A SAMPAN WAS DISCOVERED BEACHED AT CUA VIET CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES: 112 - 82MM

MORTAR ROUNDS, FOUR 75MM RR ROUNDS, 132 - 82MM MORTAR FUSES, 15 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, 633 KILOS OF TNT, 14 RPG-2 ROUNDS, AND 2280 ROUNDS OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION. OFF THE DMZ COAST YESTERDAY, THE USS HULL RECEIVED 12 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY. THE CLOSEST ROUND LANDED 12 METERS OFF THE STARBOARD BOW. THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE SHIP. FIRE WAS RETURNED AT THE ENEMY POSITION, SILENCING THE ENEMY FIRE.

THERE WERE FOUR COFRAM MISSIONS FIRED DURING THE PERIOD, EXPENDING 54 ROUNDS, AND RESULTING IN 20 NORTH VIETNAMESE KILLED.

TACTICAL AIR SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH TOTALLED 219 FOR THE PERIOD. MARINE AIRCRAFT FLEW 83 SORTIES, PRODUCING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND THREE SECONDARY FIRES. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 77 SORTIES AND THE NAVY FLEW 59, REPORTING ONE BRIDGE DESTROYED, THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 17 SECONDARY FIRES, FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED, AND 13 ROAD CUTS. SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (35 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA. PRELIMINARY BOMB DAMAGE REPORTS INDICATE FAVORABLE RESULTS. THREE OF THE STRIKES FLOWN WERE THE CLOSEST TO DATE TO FRIENDLY FORCES (1.2 KILOMETERS).

AIR RESUPPLY FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 99 SHORT TONS. HOWEVER, THE FUEL DROP LANDED OUTSIDE OF THE DROP ZONE AND WAS DESTROYED BY U.S. FORCES. THERE WAS ONE SHORT TON OF VEHICLES. THIRTY-ONE REPLACEMENTS WERE AIR-LANDED. RESUPPLY SORTIES TOTALLED 14 ON 1 MARCH. SIX C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED FIVE AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD. EIGHT C-123 AIRCRAFT ALSO LANDED AT THE FIELD. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS WERE PREVENTED BY UNFAVORABLE WEATHER. THE GROUND COMMANDER REQUESTED THAT AIR DROPS BE CURTAILED SO MATERIAL RECEIVED DURING PRECEDING DAYS COULD BE HANDLED.

FOR THE NEXT PERIOD, 270 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. A TOTAL SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES ~~(42 SORTIES)~~ ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE NIAGARA AREA.

AS INDICATED, THE WEATHER WORSENEED IN THE KHE SANH AREA. LOW CLOUDS AND FOG PERSISTED THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE DAY AT KHE SANH ON 1 MARCH AS CEILINGS LOWERED UNTIL NOON YESTERDAY WITH VISIBILITIES RESTRICTED FROM ONE-HALF TO TWO MILES. THE BEST CONDITIONS OF THE DAY WERE REPORTED BETWEEN NOON AND 3:00 PM WHEN CEILINGS RANGED FROM 500 TO 2000 FEET AND VISIBILITIES RANGED FROM TWO TO SIX MILES. CONDITIONS BEGAN DROPPING RAPIDLY AFTER 3:00 PM PRODUCING LOW CEILINGS AND VISIBILITIES DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY ON 2 MARCH OF 200 TO 500 FEET AND ONE-QUARTER TO ONE-HALF MILE. THE FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 2 - 3 MARCH IS FOR CONTINUED POOR TO MARGINAL CONDITIONS WITH THE BEST WEATHER OCCURRING AFTER 10:00 AM WHEN CEILINGS AND VISIBILITY ARE EXPECTED TO REACH 1000 FEET AND FOUR MILES. DETERIORATING CONDITIONS WILL AGAIN OCCUR AFTER 15:00 PM WHEN LOW CLOUDS AND FOG WILL FORM AND PERSIST INTO THE MORNING OF 3 MARCH.

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

DAYS SUPPLY
ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS
8:00 PM 29 FEB EST
(9:00 AM 1 MAR SVN)

CLASS I	(RATIONS)		
	MEAL, COMBAT,		
	INDIVIDUAL	15	13 DAYS
	8 RATIONS	10	10 DAYS
CLASS III	(FUEL)		
	AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	3	3 DAYS
	JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	8.3	7.5 DAYS
	MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9.3	8.7 DAYS
	DIESEL	10	8.4 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	44	44 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	24	19 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	92	92 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	15	31 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	16	16 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	15	15 DAYS

B. ANTI-TANK

90-MM HEAT	ROUNDS ON HAND
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	1,059
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	2,343
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-18)	168
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	668
106-MM HEAT	0
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	154
106-MM BEEHIVE	706
3.5" ROCKET	909
90-MM AP-T	946
	329

DAYS SUPPLY
ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS
8:00 PM 29 FEB EST
(9:00 AM 1 MAR SVN)

CLASS V	(COFRAN)	
	105-MM HOWITZER	5
	155-MM HOWITZER	5
	40-MM GRENADE LAUNCHER	5
	HAND GRENADES	10
		5 DAYS
		5 DAYS
		5 DAYS
		10 DAYS

2. ON 1 MARCH KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 99 TONS AS
FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	29 TONS
CLASS II	2 TONS
CLASS III	15 TONS
CLASS IV	8 TONS
CLASS V	43 TONS
CLASS VII	1 TON

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