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OO WTE17  
DE WTE 943

Authority OSD 1-3-79  
By ply, NARA, Date 3-3-92

FROM: WALT ROSTOW  
TO : THE PRESIDENT  
CITE: CAP80629

*Pres file*

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MARCH 2, 1968

68 MAR 2 AM 11:48

SENT  
SATURDAY

HEREWITH KHE SANH -- I CORPS REPORT:

- POOR WEATHER;
- ONLY 99 TONS DELIVERED;
- CONSIDERABLE BUT NOT MAJOR GROUND CONTACTS.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD, MARCH 1, 1968.

WEATHER CONDITIONS YESTERDAY AT KHE SANH WERE LESS THAN OPTIMUM AS PROHIBITIVELY LOW CEILING AND FOG OCCURRED THROUGH MUCH OF THE DAY. ALTHOUGH VISUAL FIXED WING SUPPORT WAS NOT POSSIBLE, EFFECTIVE RADAR CONTROL AND COMBAT SKY SPOT SORTIES WERE FLOWN. RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT OFFLOADED ONLY 99 SHORT TONS OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.

ALTHOUGH FIXED WING STRIKES WERE AFFECTED BY THE WEATHER, ARTILLERY BATTERIES EXPENDED A TOTAL OF 1562 ROUNDS ON KNOWN AND SUSPECTED ENEMY TARGETS WITH GOOD TARGET COVERAGE. ENEMY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD WAS GENERALLY LIGHT WITH SCATTERED ENEMY NIGHT-TIME MOVEMENTS DETECTED BY ACTIVATED TRIP FLARES. SPECIFICALLY, DURING THE PERIOD, ENEMY ACTIVITIES CONSISTED OF SMALL PROBES AND HARRASSING FIRES. AT 3:00AM YESTERDAY, D COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 9TH MARINES, HEARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE ITS WIRE; ILLUMINATION WAS FIRED REVEALING FOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE RUNNING AWAY. ONE WAS KILLED AS A RESULT OF SMALL ARMS FIRE. IN A LATE REPORT, AS A RESULT OF THE ENEMY PROBE AT POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY THE 37TH ARVN RANGERS, IN ADDITION TO SEVEN ENEMY KILLED BY RANGER ELEMENTS, 60 NORTH VIETNAMESE BODIES WERE FOUND AT FIRST LIGHT ATTRIBUTED TO ARTILLERY MISSIONS. AT 3:05PM YESTERDAY, THE MARINES OBSERVED TROOPS WITH LIGHTS MOVING FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF THE SANH. ARTILLERY AND MORTAR MISSIONS FIRED WITH GOOD TARGET COVERAGE.

CTZ	NUMBER OF REPORTING RF COMPANIES	AVERAGE PRESENT FOR DUTY STR
I	136	111
II	224	96
III	214	91
IV	335	96
TOTAL COS 989		OVERALL AVERAGE PFD STRENGTH 99 (AUTH - 123)

CTZ	NUMBER OF REPORTING PF PLTS	AVERAGE PRESENT FOR DUTY STR
I	719	31
II	1,050	25
III	761	31
IV	1,844	30
TOTAL PLTS 4,365		OVERALL AVERAGE PFD STRENGTH 29 (AUTH - 35)

C. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY VN AIR FORCE UNIT WHICH HAS HAD ITS CAPABILITY SEVERELY TAXED AS A RESULT OF PERSONNEL LOSSES.

D. PERSONNEL ESTIMATES BY JGS AT THE END OF FEB, USING THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE, INDICATES THAT PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS THROUGH THE END OF FY68 CAN BE SATISFIED. THE LARGE NUMBER OF REPLACEMENTS FURNISHED DURING FEB REFLECT THE EXTRAORDINARY STEPS TAKEN BY GVN TO MEET THE CURRENT SITUATION. THESE STEPS INCLUDE: RECALL OF RESERVISTS, ACCELERATION OF TRAINING CYCLES, AMNESTY PROGRAMS AND INTENSIFIED ROUND-UP PROGRAMS FOR DESERTERS AND DRAFT-EVADERS, RESTORATION TO DUTY OF DESERTER-LABORERS AND SELECTED MILITARY PRISON. THE GVN MOBILIZATION DIRECTOR IS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN MEET FORESEEABLE MANPOWER DEMANDS THROUGH CY68.

### III. OPERATIONAL STATUS.

A. DURING YOUR RECENT VISIT TO MACV YOU WERE PROVIDED WITH DATA REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 155 RVNAF MANEUVER BATTALIONS. AN UPDATE BASED ON THE LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

CTZ	ASSIGNED		COMBAT EFFECTIVE		COMBAT INEFFECTIVE	
	19 FEB	1 MAR	19 FEB	1 MAR	19 FEB	1 MAR
I	34	34	20	24	14	10
II	26	26	22	26	4	0
III	56	55	36	48	20	7
IV	39	40	20	20	19	20
TOTAL	155	155	98	118	57	37

THIS INDICATES A CONCERTED EFFORT ON THE PART OF JGS TO BRING UNITS UP TO EFFECTIVE FIGHTING STRENGTH AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

B. DETAILED FIELD EVALUATIONS OF INFANTRY UNITS' PERFORMANCES DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE ARE NOT YET COMPLETE; HOWEVER OVERALL REPORTS INDICATE SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE.

VC. THE AIRBORNE DIVISION HAS SUFFERED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AMONG ITS OFFICERS AND NCO'S, BUT IS CONSIDERED TO BE COMBAT EFFECTIVE. STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO OVERCOME THE LEADERSHIP DEFICIENCY AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

D. THE MARINE BRIGADE'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS IS CONSIDERED VERY GOOD.

### IV. TRAINING BASE STATUS.

A. THE PRIMARY IMPACT OF THE TET OFFENSIVE ON THE RVNAF TRAINING BASE WAS THE CESSATION OF TRAINING FOR TWO WEEKS. ON 11 FEB CENTRAL TRAINING COMMAND/JOINT GENERAL STAFF (CTC/JGS) DIRECTED ALL TRAINING ACTIVITY RESUME IMMEDIATELY UNLESS PREVENTED BY TACTICAL CONSIDERATION.

B. OF THE NINE CTC CONTROLLED TRAINING CENTERS, SEVEN HAVE RESUMED TRAINING. ONE WAS DAMAGED SEVERELY AND IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME TRAINING ON 4 MAR 68 WITH A SMALLER CAPACITY.

C. SEVENTEEN OF 24 SCHOOLS HAVE RESUMED FULL OR PART-TIME TRAINING. THE REMAINING SEVEN WILL RESUME TRAINING UPON RECEIPT OF PERSONNEL AND REDUCTION OF SECURITY MISSIONS.

D. THREE OF TEN DIVISION TRAINING CENTERS (DTC'S) ARE TRAINING. A NEW MISSION TO TRAIN RECRUITS HAS BEEN GIVEN THE DTC'S, AND ALL ARE SCHEDULED TO BE TRAINING THEM BY 18 MAR 68.

E. EIGHT OF 37 POPULAR FORCE TRAINING CENTERS (PFTC) HAVE RESUMED TRAINING. ONE PFTC WAS DESTROYED AND THE REMAINING 28 WILL RESUME TRAINING UPON RECEIPT OF INDIVIDUALS/UNITS.

F. AIRBORNE TRAINING IS CONDUCTED IN A COMBINATION OF CIC CONTROLLED TRAINING CENTERS AND THE AIRBORNE DIVISION JUMP SCHOOL. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL.

G. THE AIR FORCE AND MARINES EACH HAVE ONE TRAINING CENTER AND THEY HAVE RESUMED NORMAL OPERATION.

H. NAVAL TRAINING IS CONDUCTED IN THREE TRAINING CENTERS; TWO ARE IN OPERATION AND THE THIRD WILL RESUME TRAINING ON 4 MAR 68.

I. CIVILIAN IRREGULAR DEFENSE GROUP (CIDG) TRAINING IS CONDUCTED IN FIVE CENTERS AND ALL ARE CONDUCTING NORMAL TRAINING.

J. MODIFICATIONS TO TRAINING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN MADE AND EXPEDIENT METHODS EMPLOYED TO INSURE A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TRAINED PERSONNEL. ASSUMING NO INCREASE IN ENEMY ACTIVITY, THE RVNAF TRAINING BASE CAN ACCOMPLISH THE TRAINING PROGRAMMED FOR CY68.

#### V. LOGISTICS STATUS.

A. DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE THE RVNAF LOGISTICS SYSTEM OPERATED SATISFACTORILY. THE MAJOR ITEMS OF RVNAF EQUIPMENT REPORTED AS DESTROYED OR SEVERELY DAMAGED ARE AS SHOWN BELOW. THESE FIGURES (AS OF 28 FEB 68) DO NOT INCLUDE EQUIPMENT LOSSES SUSTAINED IN THE HUE AREA.

ITEM	DESTROYED	SEVERELY DAMAGED (X)
M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER	32	32
V100 COMMANDO CAR	5	3
M41 TANK	14	10
1/4 TON TRUCK, UTILITY	32	29
1 TON TRUCK, CARGO	30	29
2 1/2 TON TRUCK, CARGO	52	108
M101A1 105MM HOWITZER	5	0
M114A1 155MM HOWITZER	3	0
MORTAR, 80MM	63	0
RECOILLESS RIFLE, 57MM	8	0
H34 HELICOPTER	5	1
B1 AIRCRAFT	4	0
A1 AIRCRAFT	8	0
C47 AIRCRAFT	1	1
C119 AIRCRAFT	1	1
U17 AIRCRAFT	1	0

(X) 50 PERCENT ESTIMATED REPAIRABLE.

B. THE ON-HAND STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS (EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE) INDICATES NO SERIOUS LOSSES.

#### VI. COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS.

A. ARVN LONG DISTANCE FIXED AREA RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WERE VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED BY THE RECENT TET OFFENSIVE. LOCAL CABLE AND WIRE COMMUNICATIONS SUFFERED MOST HEAVILY. SEVERAL COURSES OF ACTION HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO MINIMIZE FUTURE DAMAGE OF THIS NATURE. COMMUNICATIONS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO DIVISION AND LOWER TACTICAL COMMANDERS SUFFERED LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OVERALL COUNTRY-WIDE LOSSES. THESE LOSSES ARE NOT UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT RVN, BUT ARE CONCENTRATED IN UNITS MOST HEAVILY ENGAGED, SUCH AS THE 1ST ARVN DIV, WHERE SIGNIFICANT LOSSES IN PORTABLE RADIOS WERE INFLICTED.

B. THE VNN C-E CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT SUSTAINED OPERATIONS WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE TET OFFENSIVE OR THE POST-TET ATTACKS.

C. THE VNAF C-E OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES REMAINED INTACT THROUGHOUT THE TET OFFENSIVE. THE EFFECT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VNAF C-E STORAGE FACILITY AT BIEN HOA HAS NOT YET BEEN EVALUATED.

WARM REGARDS.

DTG: 041241Z MAR 68

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