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1968 FEB 27 15 49

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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP 88602

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 050 for 1/31/79

By 4pm, NARA, Date 3-3-92

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TEXT OF REPORT FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND. THIS IS REPORT NUMBER TWENTY-THREE ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AND COVERS THE 24 HOUR PERIOD FEBRUARY 26, 1968.

THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE MODERATE SHELLING DURING THE PERIOD AS 150 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY, 50 ROUNDS OF ROCKET, AND 50 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FELL WITHIN THE PERIMETER. THE SHELLING RESULTED IN ONE KILLED AND 23 WOUNDED, NINE OF WHOM WERE EVACUATED. NO MATERIEL DAMAGE WAS REPORTED.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND CONTACTS MADE AT KHE SANH, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT SIGHTINGS WERE MADE RESULTING FROM OR RESULTING IN FRIENDLY ACTIONS. AT 10:50 AM, A COMPANY OF MARINES SPOTTED AN ENEMY MORTAR FIRING FROM A POSITION ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF HILL 881. COUNTER MORTAR REGISTERED AND SUPPRESSED THE ENEMY MORTAR FIRE. AT 5:00 PM, AN AIR OBSERVER, ADJUSTING FIRE ON FIVE ARTILLERY POSITIONS 17 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KHE SANH, IN LAOS, OBSERVED ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION AND ONE SECONDARY FIRE. AT 6:30 PM, A MARINE COMPANY SIGHTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A TRACKED VEHICLE ABOUT FOUR KILOMETERS WEST OF THE KHE SANH BASE, BUT FOG MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ADJUST A FIRE MISSION. AT 7:25 PM, THE 37TH ARVN RANGER BATTALION REPORTED THAT PERSONNEL MANNING A LISTENING POST SAW A SQUAD SIZE NVA UNIT MOVING TOWARD THEIR PERIMETER. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS EXCHANGED RESULTING IN THREE NVA KILLED. AT 8:30 PM, MARINES OBSERVED THREE LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS RESULTING FROM AN ARC LIGHT STRIKE.

ELSEWHERE ALONG THE DMZ HEAVY INCOMING FIRE WAS REPORTED AT DONG HA AND CON THIEN. A TOTAL OF 300 ROUNDS FELL ON DONG HA DURING THE PERIOD. RESULTS WERE ONE KILLED AND 22 WOUNDED. MATERIEL DESTRUCTION WAS HEAVY AND INCLUDED 20,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL, TWO LIGHT OBSERVATION PLANES, FOUR GENERATORS, ONE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER, AND ONE JEEP AND TRAILER. MAJOR DAMAGE WAS REPORTED TO TWO AHIG'S, TWO GENERATORS, TWO PERSONNEL CARRIERS TWO FIVE TON TRUCKS, ONE WRECKER, TWO DUMP TRUCKS, ONE ASPHALT DISTRIBUTER AND ONE WATER TRAILER. CON THIEN RECEIVED 181 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND 35 ROUNDS OF MORTAR. THERE WAS NO REPORT OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE.

68 FEB 27 AM 11:00

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TUESDAY

THE MARINES AT C2 RECEIVED TWO ROUNDS OF MORTAR, WITHOUT REPORT OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. ADDITIONAL SPORADIC INCOMING FELL ON A3, AND ON THE 1ST AMTRAC BATTALION, WITH NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE REPORTED. AT 8:00 AM, A LANDING CRAFT CONVOY ON THE CUA VIET RECEIVED RECOILLESS RIFLE AND MORTAR. FIRE WAS RETURNED BY THE MARINE ELEMENTS IN THE CONVOY AND AN ENEMY MORTAR POSITION WAS REPORTED DESTROYED.

THERE WERE 268 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THE MARINES FLEW 84 SORTIES, REPORTING THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND TWO SECONDARY FIRES. THE AIR FORCE FLEW 157 SORTIES AND THE NAVY FLEW 27 SORTIES. VISUAL BOMB DAMAGE REPORTED WAS 23 ENEMY KILLED, FIVE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, FOUR SECONDARY FIRES, SIX TRUCKS DESTROYED, FOUR BUNKERS DESTROYED. SEVEN ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) WERE FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

AIR RESUPPLY FOR KHE SANH DURING THE PERIOD TOTALLED 192.5 SHORT TONS. A 155MM HOWITZER (6.25 SHORT TONS) WAS AIRLIFTED IN, ALONG WITH 1.25 SHORT TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. IN ADDITION, 113 PASSENGERS WERE LANDED AT THE AIRFIELD. A TOTAL OF 30 RESUPPLY SORTIES WERE FLOWN. ELEVEN C-130 AIRCRAFT COMPLETED 10 AIR DROPS AND ONE LANDING. TWO C-123 AIRCRAFT ALSO LANDED, WHILE ONE C-123 COMPLETED AN AIR DROP. SIXTEEN MARINE HELICOPTERS LANDED AT KHE SANH.

FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS, A TOTAL OF 286 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE SCHEDULED IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH. THERE WILL BE SIX ARC LIGHT STRIKES (36 SORTIES) FLOWN IN THE NIAGARA AREA.

KHE SANH WEATHER FOR THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON OF 26 FEBRUARY WAS CLOUDY WITH THE LOWEST CLOUD BASES AT 1500 TO 1800 FEET. THE VISIBILITY WAS GOOD. THE CLOUDS LOWERED AND RAIN BEGAN AFTER 7:00 PM. LOW CLOUDS, FOG AND SOME LIGHT RAIN PERSISTED THROUGH THE NIGHT UNTIL 5:00 AM ON THE 27TH. AT THIS TIME THE CLOUDS BECAME SCATTERED AND THE VISIBILITY INCREASED TO 7 - 10 MILES. THE FORECAST IS FOR CONTINUED GOOD WEATHER DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF THE 27TH. LOW CLOUDS AND FOG ARE EXPECTED TO FORM AFTER MIDNIGHT AND CONTINUE INTO THE EARLY MORNING HOURS.

1. THE KHE SANH DUMP AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT STATUS AS OF 8:00 PM FEBRUARY 26 IS AS FOLLOWS:

		PREVIOUS STATUS
	DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	8:00 PM 25 FEB EST (9:00 AM 26 FEB SVN)
CLASS I (RATIONS) MEAL, COMBAT, INDIVIDUAL B RATIONS	13 9	12 DAYS 9 DAYS

CLASS III (FUEL)

AVIATION GAS (AVGAS)	5.2	7.2 DAYS
JP-4 FUEL (JET FUEL)	2	1 DAY
MOTOR GASOLINE (MOGAS)	9.3	8.7 DAYS
DIESOL	8	6.8 DAYS

CLASS V (AMMUNITION)

A. HIGH EXPLOSIVE

60-MM MORTAR	30	23 DAYS
81-MM MORTAR	12	13 DAYS
90-MM (TANK)	30	30 DAYS
4.2" MORTAR	30	21 DAYS
105-MM HOWITZER	17	18 DAYS
155-MM HOWITZER	14	19 DAYS

B. ANTI-TANK

	ROUNDS ON HAND
90-MM HEAT	89
66-MM ROCKET (LAW)	2,343
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-15)	78
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-19)	22
ANTI-TANK MINES (M-21)	0
106-MM HEAT	144
106-MM RECOILLESS RIFLE (HEP-T)	1,020
3.5" ROCKET	1,126

DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 25 FEB EST (9:00 AM 26 FEB SVN)

CLASS V (COFRAM)

105-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 26 FEBRUARY KHE SANH WAS RESUPPLIED WITH 192.5 TONS
AS FOLLOWS:

CLASS I	3.0	TONS
CLASS II	1.5	TONS
CLASS III	6.0	TONS
CLASS IV	4.5	TONS
CLASS V	170.0	TONS
CLASS VIII	1.25	TONS
1 155-MM HOWITZER	6.25	TONS

DTG: 271322Z FEB 1968

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