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INFORMATION

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Pres. file

Thursday, March 21, 1968 -- 10:45 a.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh:

- weather good;
- 177 enemy rounds;
- 87 friendly artillery missions;
- 203 tactical sorties plus 6 B-52's;
- 265 tons delivered;
- from other information, indications some enemy forces pulling back from Khe Sanh, others, perhaps, moving east to Quang Tri-Hue area.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rln

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD Dec 10-18-7
By u/s, NARA, Date 4/2

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44a

Thursday, March 21, 1968, 8:50 a.m.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number forty-six on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area for the 24-hour period of March 20, 1968.

The level and character of activity at Khe Sanh has not changed over the past three days. The enemy continues to limit his efforts to indirect fire attacks. During this period, 177 incoming rounds were recorded. The majority of these were from enemy mortars (150 rounds) and twenty-one Marines were wounded. Five men required medical evacuation. Eighty-seven artillery missions were fired in support of the base; thirty-three were observed missions. Five enemy were reported killed by artillery or tactical air.

Clear weather prevailed for most of the day and 203 tactical air sorties were flown. Bomb damage assessment in the Niagara area included two secondary explosions, nine bunkers and one gun position destroyed, two road cuts and sixteen secondary fires. Unseasonably good weather in the north uncovered lucrative targets and some Niagara sorties were diverted to the northern route packages.

There were six ARC LIGHT strikes in the Khe Sanh area during the period, four strikes within 1000 - 1500 meters of friendly troops. One mission reported eleven secondary explosions. Forty-three fixed wing and helicopter sorties lifted 265.5 short tons of supplies, and 130 replacements into the base.

During the next 24 hours, 298 tactical air sorties and six ARC LIGHT strikes are scheduled in support of Khe Sanh. Weather predictions are fair to good, with marginal conditions early in the morning, clearing up during the day. Rain may reduce conditions to 2,000 feet and three miles visibility after 2:00 p.m.

Along the DMZ, 55 incoming rounds were received with no significant casualties or damage reported. Elsewhere in Quang Tri Province, contact was light. The total casualties in the 3rd Marine Division area for the period were twenty-six Marines wounded (six evacuated), thirteen enemy killed and two individual weapons captured.

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Authority OSD da 1/3/79

By cp/rg, NARA, Da 1/3/94

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A Shau aerial surveillance on the twentieth consisted of one early morning and one photo recon mission. The good weather prediction was wrong. One ground reconnaissance team was extracted and one team failed to insert due to enemy fire. A team report from a mission near the A Luoi Airstrip contains locations of suspected caves and tunnels in the vicinity, a possible truck park and bivouac area and sightings of truck traffic on Route 548.

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THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

446

21 March 1968
0430

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Supply Status at Khe Sanh as of 8:00 PM EST
20 Mar (9:00 AM 21 Mar, SVN time)

1. The Khe Sanh Dump and Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) status as of the above time is as follows:

	PREVIOUS STATUS
DAYS SUPPLY	8:00 PM 19 Mar EST
ON HAND	(9:00 AM 20 Mar SVN)

CLASS I (Rations)

Meal, Combat, Individual	21	.21 days
B Rations	8	8 days

CLASS II (Fuel)

Aviation Gas (AVGAS)	3	.3 days
JP-4 Fuel (Jet Fuel)	10.6	10.6 days
Motor Gasoline (MOGAS)	13.2	14.2 days
Diesel	9	4.4 days

CLASS V (Ammunition)

a. High Explosive

60-mm mortar	51	52 days
81-mm mortar	31	31 days
90-mm (Tank)	133	133 days
4.2" mortar	32	32 days
105-mm howitzer	22	22 days
155-mm howitzer	24	21 days

b. Antitank

90-mm AP-T	329
90-mm HEAT	1,202
66-mm rocket (LAW)	2,981
Antitank mines (M-15)	321
Antitank mines (M-19)	469
Antitank mines (M-21)	0
106-mm HEAT	1,482
106-mm recoilless rifle (HPP-T)	2,130
3.5" rocket	2,991

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EO 12356, Sec 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By AB, NARA Date 4/2/92

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PREVIOUS STATUS
DAYS SUPPLY 8:00 PM 19 Mar EST
ON HAND (9:00 AM 20 Mar SVN)

c. Antipersonnel

106-mm BEEHIVE

ROUNDS ON HAND

1,517

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 20 March, Khe Sanh was resupplied with 265.5 tons as follows:

CLASS I	67 tons
CLASS II	20 tons
CLASS III	34 tons
CLASS IV	26 tons
CLASS V	105 tons
MISCELLANEOUS	13.5 tons

Marshall B. Garth

MARSHALL B. GARTH
Brigadier General, USA
Deputy Director for
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution:

SECDEF
DEPSECDEF
CJCS (3)
DJS (3)
J-30
J-31
J-32
J-33
J-34
J-4
AWR
MCCC
AFCP
NPP
DDO
ADDO
CCOC
PAC DIV
PAC DESK