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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Saturday, March 30, 1968

2:45 PM

Mr. Rostow:

Just received confirmation from NMCC that  
the attached press story is true.

Walt

Rey

15a  
NNMZCZC EPE 232.

SS NOR  
1350: BULLETIN\*\*\*\*:

VIET--BATTLE

SAIGON, MARCH 31 (SUNDAY) (REUTERS)--U.S. MARINES AT  
KHE SANH TRYING TO SMASH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LINES SURROUNDING  
THEM YESTERDAY SURGED OUT OF THE BASE AND ASSAULTED A NORTH  
VIETNAMESE BATTALION, A U.S. MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAID EARLY  
TODAY.

;; (MORE) MB/EB

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UU NOR

1351: URGENT\*\*\*\*

1ST ADD SAIGON VIET--BATTLE:

X X X TODAY.

THE MARINES SENT OUT A REINFORCED COMPANY--ABOUT 200 MEN,  
WITH ARTILLERY SUPPORT. THEY REPORTED KILLING 115 NORTH  
VIETNAMESE WHILE LOSING NINE MEN KILLED AND 71 WOUNDED.

;; (MORE) MB/EB

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NNNNZCZC EPE 234

YY NOR

1352: 2ND ADD SAIGON VIET--BATTLE:

X X X WOUNDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MARINES LEFT THE PERIMETER OF THE  
REMOTE NORTHWESTERN GARRISON AT 8:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME SATURDAY,  
AND ONE MILE SOUTH OF THE BASE RAN INTO AN ESTIMATED NORTH  
VIETNAMESE BATTALION DUG INTO BUNKERS AND TRENCHES.

THE MARINES HELD THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WITH RIFLE AND MACHINEGUN  
FIRE WHILE THEY DIRECTED A MASSIVE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT ONTO  
THEM.

THE FIGHTING WAS FIERCE BUT BRIEF--ONE HOUR LATER THE  
MARINES BEGAN TO WITHDRAW AND, CARRYING THEIR DEAD  
AND WOUNDED, HAD ALL MARCHED BACK INSIDE THE BASE BY NOON,  
THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

;; REUTERS MB/EB