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INFORMATION

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Tuesday, March 26, 1968 - 12:45pm

Mr. President:

Pres file

At Khe Sanh-DMZ-A Shau:

- 25 rounds enemy incoming;
- 252 tactical support sorties plus 47 B-52's;
- 150.5 tons resupply, hampered by low ceilings and high winds;
- heavy contact east of Quang Tri City;
- weather poor.

W. W. Rostow

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Authority OSD 10-18-78

By up/ly, NARA, Date 7-3-92

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Tuesday, March 26, 1968, 9:15 a. m.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number fifty-one on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley area for the 24-hour period of March 25, 1968.

Resupply was hampered by low ceilings and high winds, which prevented aircraft from landing. Input consisted of ten air drops by C-130 aircraft totaling 150.5 short tons. Supplies remain at a satisfactory level with 28 days of rations and 21 or more days of large caliber ammunition on hand.

Low clouds and poor visibility are predicted for the remainder of today and the morning of March 27.

For the second day, enemy incoming fire decreased as a total of 25 rounds were received at Khe Sanh; 12 artillery, 10 mortar and three rocket. There was no ground action in the vicinity. The incoming rounds wounded 17 Marines; 13 were evacuated.

South of the DMZ, seven kilometers southeast of Cam Lo, a third Marine Division Reconnaissance Team observed approximately 250 North Vietnamese Army. Artillery was employed, killing 25 of the enemy.

Early in the morning of March 25, the 1st Air Cavalry Division established heavy contact six kilometers east of Quang Tri City. The enemy force was later identified by a detainee as elements of the K14 Battalion, 5th North Vietnamese Regiment. Gunships supported and the contact was broken at 7:00 p. m. Fifty-two of the enemy were killed. U. S. losses were 10 killed and 26 wounded.

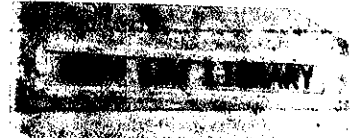
Two hundred forty two tactical air sorties were flown in the Niagara area. Seven enemy were killed. Seven secondary explosions, 14 secondary fires, nine bunkers and one mortar position destroyed, and 20 road cuts and two ford cuts were credited to tactical air. Tactical air sorties planned for tomorrow total 314.

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Eight ARC LIGHT strikes, of 47 sorties, were scheduled. One aircraft was diverted to a secondary target. Nine missions are planned for March 26.

One wire tap mission near Route 547 in A Shau was unsuccessful due to heavy enemy contact. Two Reconnaissance Teams remain in the valley. One Team called in tactical air to destroy an enemy artillery cache of approximately 150 rounds. No unusual returns were reported from one photo and two armed reconnaissance missions.

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