

Monday, April 22, 1968

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Pres file

MR. PRESIDENT:

These diary extracts from North Vietnamese soldiers confirm all other reports that air power devastated the enemy in the siege of Khe Sanh.

Using three different independent methods Col. Gruenther (Al Gruenther's son) estimates the enemy's Khe Sanh casualties (killed and wounded requiring evacuation) were in the range of 14,600 - 28,900.

W. W. Rostow

Attachments



April 22, 1968

21a

SUBJECT: Khe Sanh

Notebook entries dated from January 15 to March 20, 1968, reveals that subject infiltrated to South Vietnam, via Laos, during the period of January 15 to March 19, 1968. Entry dated February 5, 1968, reveals that enemy ground and air activities were intense and that every infiltration group moving on the bloody route from Ha Tinh to Quang Binh was subject to enemy attacks. Subject further relates in an entry dated February 29, 1968, that while enroute to Khe Sanh, previous contingents of Doan 926 suffered 300 desertions due to fear of B52 raids. Subject further states that during his trip he encountered a group of haggard and wounded prisoners including Americans, being evacuated from the Khe Sanh area.

CDEC #04-2278-68, Bulletin 11, 456

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April 22, 1968

SUBJECT: Khe Sanh

Notebook entries by Hoai, Phong (Hoail, Fong), member of an unidentified North Vietnamese Army unit taking part in the Khe Sanh battle, contains notes recorded from October 25, 1967, to March 21, 1968, and reveals that the subject infiltrated South Vietnam during the period November 18 - 29, 1967. In an entry dated March 21, 1968, entitled the 60 day fighting, subject depicts the battle of Khe Sanh as fiercer than Dien Bien Phu. Subject states that from the beginning until the 60th day of the battle, B52 bombers continually bombed this area with growing intensity and at all hours of the day, destroying all living creatures and vegetation including personnel located in caves and in deep underground shelters.

CDEC # 04-2244-68, Bulletin 11, 439
(Military Cable)