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INFORMATION

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Friday, April 12, 1968 -- 9:40 a.m.

*Pres file*

Mr. President:

With this 68th daily report on Khe Sanh, the series ends -- with our forces in good order.

You will note that Westy is redispensing some of his forces to help chase the enemy units still hanging about Quang Tri and Danang.

Having studied the North Vietnamese for some 15 years, I am sure that their failure to produce a Dien Bien Phu against the Americans -- and the losses they suffered at Khe Sanh -- is a much deeper and more fundamental blow to their vision of the future than is generally understood.

Although we cannot say it out loud, they learned, finally, at Khe Sanh that Americans of 1968 are not the French of 1954.

W. W. Rostow

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White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983  
By rf, NARA, Date 5-18-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3  
DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988  
By rf, NARA, Date 5-18-92

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Friday, April 12, 1968, 9:03 a.m.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number sixty-eight on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley for the 24-hour period of April 11, 1968.

Khe Sanh experienced a significant increase in low cloudiness as a cold front advanced into the area from the northeast. Ceilings and visibility approached zero conditions during hours of darkness.

During the reporting period Khe Sanh Combat Base received nine rounds of incoming enemy artillery. Between 9:10 - 10:20 a.m. this morning, twelve 122mm rocket rounds were also fired at the base. There were no friendly casualties from these attacks. Friendly artillery fired 160 missions expending 1,726 rounds. Forty-two missions were observed. No COFRAM ammunition was fired.

US units in Operation Pegasus reported that during the period 33 enemy were killed, 16 individual weapons and four crew-served weapons were captured. Our losses were one killed and nine wounded (eight evacuated). In addition at 7:30 p.m. on April 11 six kilometers west-southwest of Khe Sanh near Lang Vei, the 6th ARVN Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown enemy size force. Artillery, mortar and small arms contact continued through the night. As of 6:30 a.m. yesterday ARVN casualties were five killed and 30 wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown.

Friendly force dispositions were changed during the period. The 1st Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division departed Ca Lu and returned to landing zone Sharon, south of Quang Tri City. The 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion departed Khe Sanh and returned to Danang. Enemy force dispositions remain unchanged.

Elsewhere in Quang Tri Province, two kilometers south of the rock pile, the 3rd Battalion 9th Marines and supporting artillery received ten rounds of 130mm artillery. One Marine was wounded and one 175mm gun was damaged. The 3rd Marine Division initiated Operation Charlton at 10:00 a.m. this morning after being temporarily delayed due to weather. This is a combined air assault and armor thrust under control of the 4th Marines. Task organization consists of the 3rd Battalion 5th Regiment and 3rd Battalion 1st Regiment Marines (reinforced). Direction of the attack is from Cam Lo to the south along Route 558.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

NARA Date 5-18-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

AF Guide, SEA Records, 4/1/88

By 22 NARA Date 5-18-92

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Fifty-one tactical air sorties and one ARC LIGHT mission (six sorties) were flown in support of the Pegasus area. Bomb damage assessment included four secondary explosions and eight bunkers destroyed.

No aerial resupply was made to Khe Sanh during the period. Supplies remain at a satisfactory level.

A total of 189 tactical air sorties are scheduled for the next period in support of Pegasus with an additional 116 on call. Two ARC LIGHT missions are also planned.

Low clouds and fog are forecast for the next 24-hour period with the poorest conditions expected during nighttime and early morning hours. Conditions are expected to improve slightly during the day.

Aerial surveillance in A Shau included three radar missions which revealed a total of nine moving target indicators.

It would seem that this special daily report has served its purpose and is now unnecessary. I recommend that it be discontinued.