

23

INFORMATION

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Pres file

Thursday, June 27, 1968 - 1:00pm

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy supports Abrams' proposals on Khe Sanh and the replies to the press which Abrams suggests Westy make.

W. W. Rostow

MAC 8394
HWA 2153

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WWRostow:rlh

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PP. YEKADS
DE YSNKQA 24 1791417
P 271411Z ZFF-2
FM GEN WHEELER CJCS WASH DC
INFO MR ROSTOW WHITE HOUSE WASH DC
O 250002Z ZYH ZFF-3
FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV
TO YSNKORC/GEN WESTMORELAND TDY CINCPAC
INFO GEN WHEELER CJCS
ADM SHARP CINCPAC
ZEM

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1. YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED ON ARRIVAL IN HONOLULU THE EXCHANGE OF BACK CHANNELS BETWEEN GENERAL WHEELER AND ME CONCERNING OUR PLANS TO SWITCH TO A MOBILE OFFENSE IN THE KHE SANH AREA AND ELIMINATE THE COMBAT BASE.
2. WHEN THIS CHANGE BECOMES KNOWN TO THE PRESS, PROBABLY ABOUT THE TIME YOU ASSUME YOUR NEW DUTIES, WE SHALL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ASKED SUCH QUESTIONS AS, "IS THIS A CHANGE OF GENERAL WESTMORELAND'S STRATEGY," OR "GENERAL WESTMORELAND ONCE SAID THAT KHE SANH MUST BE HELD, IF HE WAS CORRECT, WHY THE CHANGE?"
3. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO IS TO HAVE YOUR CONCURRENCE IN REPLYING TO SUCH QUESTIONS SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:
"A. SOME WEEKS BEFORE HE DEPARTED FOR HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, GENERAL WESTMORELAND REQUESTED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE ANTICIPATED THREAT IN I CORPS. GENERAL CUSHMAN REVIEW HIS DEPLOYMENTS IN NORTHERN I CTZ, INCLUDING KHE SANH AND MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS HE THOUGHT APPROPRIATE TO IMPROVE HIS TROOP DISPOSITIONS."
"B. GENERAL CUSHMAN MADE CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN OUTLINE FORM, TO INCLUDE THE CHANGE AT KHE SANH."
"C. GENERAL WESTMORELAND AFTER WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS INSTRUCTED THAT THIS OUTLINE BE DEVELOPED IN DETAIL. HE DID NOT SEE THE DETAILED PLAN PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM VIETNAM."

ESG NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

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DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1971

By *19* NARA Date *5-15-92*

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