

Pres file
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~~TOP SECRET~~

Wednesday, June 26, 1968
5:45 p. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I communicated your guidance to Clark Clifford. He has been working with Abrams on the Khe Sanh announcement. This is the result -- considerably shortened, as you can see.

W. W. Rostow

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(log 2048)

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By rg, NARA, Date 8-6-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec 3.3

DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1958

By 18 NARA Date 8-20-92

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June 26, 1968

from Defense

by sent George Christin

Clark asked me to send you the text we have agreed upon for Khe Sanh.

This is as sent to us by Abe, after the various messages and telephone calls. There is still no time set for the announcement, which is in their hands. FYI, the Baltimore Sun story has brought about many queries from newspapers who obviously have been alerted by their Saigon correspondents. West Gallagher of AP in New York may very well run the Sun story, although I spent 30 minutes trying to talk him out of it.

So may others very shortly. Text follows:

"MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

"SUBJECT: INACTIVATION OF THE KHE SANH COMBAT BASE

"The Khe Sanh Combat Base in western Quang Tri province has been inactivated, effective , for the following reasons:

"There have been two significant changes in the military situation in Vietnam since early this year -- an increase in friendly strength, mobility, and fire power, and an increase in the enemy threat due to both a greater flow of replacements and a change in his tactics.

"In I Corps tactical zone, there has also been a net increase in the enemy's strength. In January, the enemy had at least the equivalent of six divisions, today he has at least the equivalent of eight. This gives him the capability of mounting several sizeable attacks concurrently.

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"To meet this significantly increased threat, friendly forces must make maximum advantage of their superior firepower and mobility. Mobile forces, tied to no specific terrain, must be used to the utmost to attack, intercept, reinforce or take whatever action is most appropriate to meet the enemy threats.

"Therefore, we have decided to continue the mobile posture we adopted in western Quang Tri province with operation Pegasus in April. This decision makes the operation of the base at Khe Sanh unnecessary.

"For security reasons we cannot divulge the details of precisely how we are deploying our forces or how we will utilize the additional maneuverability we will gain by inactivation of the base."

Phil G. Goulding

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