

MAC 3474

~~TOP SECRET~~

13 APRIL 1967

121248Z

FM: GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV SAIGON

TO : ADM SHARP, CINCPAC HAWAII

INFO: GEN WHEELER, CJCS, WASHINGTON

SUBJ: SITUATION IN I CORPS

1. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED FOR SOME TIME ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN I CORPS. SOME MONTHS AGO I MADE THE DECISION THAT DURING THE NORTHEAST MONSOON, WHEN THE WEATHER IS BAD IN I CORPS, I WOULD ADOPT A STRATEGY OF ATTEMPTING TO HOLD OUR OWN IN THAT AREA AND CONCENTRATE FORCES IN OTHER AREAS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOOD WEATHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE REINFORCED THE AREA WITH A 175 BATTALION PLUS A BATTERY, A 105 SELF-PROPELLED BATTALION, AN AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BATTALION WITH A QUAD 56 BATTERY ATTACHED AND A SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY. THESE DEPLOYMENTS HAVE HELPED BUT HAVE NOT MADE UP FOR A SHORTAGE OF INFANTRY.

2. SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SITUATION IN I CORPS:

(1) EXTENSION OF THE TAOR'S IN I CORPS HAVE TIED DOWN TROOPS BY COMMITTING THEM TO AN AREA AND THE PEOPLE LIVING THEREON.
(2) AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS AND CONSTANT INFILTRATION BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY ACROSS THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. (3) THE BUILDUP OF TROOPS IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE SUPPORTED BY INFILTRATION FROM LAOS AND THE INFILUX OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES INTO THE A SHAU VALLEY AND THENCE TO THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA WEST OF HUE. AS YOU KNOW, QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES ARE UNDER THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF MILITARY REGION 4 OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY IN VINH AND THE DMZ IS OBLITERATED IN A PRACTICAL SENSE.

3. THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON SEASON WHICH IS NEAR AT HAND WILL SLOW OPERATIONS IN THE III CORPS AREA BUT BRING EXCELLENT WEATHER ALONG THE COASTAL AREA OF I CORPS AND II CORPS. THEREFORE BECAUSE OF WEATHER AND THE ENEMY SITUATION, AS YOU KNOW I HAVE ORDERED INTO EFFECT CONTINGENCY PLAN OREGON WHICH INVOLVES THE DEPLOYMENT OF A PROVISIONAL DIVISION-SIZE FORCE TO CHU LAI FOR OPERATIONS IN QUANG NGAI AND QUANG TIN PROVINCES. THIS MOVE IS DESIGNED TO FREE MARINES TO MOVE NORTH FOR OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WHICH I HAVE DIRECTED.

4. TASK FORCE OREGON WILL INITIALLY HAVE TWO BRIGADES. A THIRD WILL BE ADDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I AM STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF REINFORCING WITH A FOURTH BRIGADE ON OR ABOUT 1 JUNE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THESE DEPLOYMENTS WILL SLOW DOWN OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS IN II, III AND IV CORPS BUT I CONSIDER THE RISKS ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EMERGENCY SITUATION LEAVES ME NO OTHER CHOICE. HAVING MADE THESE DEPLOYMENTS I FEEL THAT I HAVE GONE AS FAR AS I CAN GO IN REINFORCING I CORPS, BUT I AM NOT SURE THAT THIS WILL BE ENOUGH TO DECISIVELY REVERSE THE PRESENT TREND. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE MARINE BRIGADE BASED ON OKINAWA REINFORCE III MAP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE THE SLF HELICOPTERS AND THAT PLANS BE MADE TO KEEP THE FORCE IN VIETNAM AT LEAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER. THIS WILL PERMIT THE REGIMENT TO PARTICIPATE WITH III MAP IN THEIR OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN DURING THE PERIOD OF GOOD WEATHER IN THE AREA.

5. IN MY OPINION, THE FORTHCOMING SUMMER CAMPAIGN IN I CORPS COULD BE A DECISIVE PERIOD OF THE WAR. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE PROVIDE EVERY REINFORCEMENT AVAILABLE TO INSURE THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS A SUCCESS AND THE ENEMY SUFFERS A DECISIVE DEFEAT. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY IMPROVE THE GENERAL SECURITY OF THE AREA, BUT COULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON

STRATEGIC THINKING OF THE LEADERSHIP IN HANOI.

6. A FRONT CHANNEL MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE DISPATCHED
SHORTLY.

HACV JOINT MESSAGEFORM				RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER		LOCAL DISTRIBUTION	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED						C/S	SJS X8 X7
TYPE MSG		BOOK	MULTI X	SINGLE		J1	J2 C116
TYPE TRANSMISSION		TO		INFO		J3	J4
ELECTRICAL						J5	J6
AIR MAIL						ACTIV	NAG
COURIER						AFOP	NAVFORV
PRECEDENCE						AS	DICC
ACTION TO: ROUTINE						ANMKE	PM
INFO: ROUTINE				DTG 11 0406 Z DEC 67		CEPAC	SJA
FROM: COMUSMACV						CH	SDG
TO: CG, AMERICAN DIV P. 1-1						CCC	SURC
INFO: CG, III MAF / P. 1-1						x 2	TWA
UNCLAS 41185 From: MACJ00						COMB	TRC
Gen Westmoreland sends for MG Koster, Info: LTC Cushman.						DDO SPEC	USAID
SUBJ: Congratulatory Message						FMAIO	USARY
Results of contact by units of 1/35 Inf and 1/9 Cav SSW of Hoi An on 9 Dec show value of quick reaction and dogged pursuit.						HC	IFFVLND
Heavy enemy losses at minimum cost to US forces indicate exceptionally well-led action. Hearty congratulations to all concerned.						IG	11 FFV LNO
						JRATA	111 MAFLNO
						JUERAG	15TH SF LNO
						MACDC	7TH AF
						MACDN	
						MACD	
						MACJ00	Exec Asst A-2
WAYNE B. WHITLATCH LTC, USAF, Exec Asst MACJ00				SIGNATURE W. C. WESTMORELAND General, USA COMUSMACV			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED				PAGE NO. 1	NO OF PAGES 1	COPY NO.	

MACV JOINT MESSAGEFORM			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION			
SECRET			
TYPE MSG	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE
TYPE TRANSMISSION		TO	INFO
ELECTRONIC		X	X
R F MESSAGE			
COURIER			
PRECEDENCE			
ACTION TO:	PRIORITY		
INFO	PRIORITY		

FROM: COMUSMACV

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION		
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13-14 X	4-7	7-7
15-16 A (3)	15-17 X	
17	18	
19-20	21-22	

2 TYPE NAME TITLE PHONE AND
2 OFFICE SYMBOL
4 S. L. SMITH
2 LTC, USA
2 Cdr. Staff Officer, J312
2 3074

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<u>FRN</u>	<u>UNIT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PARENT UNIT</u>
01B041	6/31 INF BN	196 INF BDE
01B042	CO PKT, 2/1 INF BN	196 INF BDE
01B043	CO PKT, 3/21 INF BN	196 INF BDE
01B044	CO PKT, 4/31 INF BN	196 INF BDE
01B045	5/12 INF BN	199 INF BDE
01B046	CO PKT, 2/3 INF BN	199 INF BDE
01B047	CO PKT, 3/7 INF BN	199 INF BDE
01B048	CO PKT, 4/12 INF BN	199 INF BDE
01I004A	CO PKT, 1/6 INF BN	198 INF BDE
01I005A	CO PKT, 1/46 INF BN	198 INF BDE
01I006A	CO PKT, 1/52 INF BN	198 INF BDE
01I032	5/46 INF BN	198 INF BDE
04B012	4/27 INF BN	11 INF BDE
04B026	INF CO PKTS, (4)	1 BDE, 101 ABN DIV

GP-4

Sunday, 3 March 1968

0800- Church
0850 Inspect Perimeter Troops (Co B, 3/7, 199th Lt Inf Bde)
0920 LTC Palmer - telephone
0925 GEN Mommyer - telephone
0930 MG Ware - telephone
0940 MG Kerwin, COL Hayes
1020 ER TSN
1030-1130 ER Chu Lai, T-39
1135-1235 Visit Americal Division, Lunch
1240-1250 Visit 1/505, 3/82
1310 ER Phu Bai, U-21
1400-1535 Visit MACV Forward
1535-1610 Discussion w/GEN Abrams, LTCs Cushman and Rosson
1615-1630 ER Danang, U-21
1630-1800 ER TSN, T-39
1800 MG Kerwin (in CofS's Office)
1815 Mr. Keyes Beach
1840 MG Kerwin
1942 MG Peers - telephone
1955 BG Brownfield
2030 Dinner
2150 MG Kerwin
2200 MG Kerwin and BG Brownfield
RCN MACV COC

San WESMORELAND HISTORY FILE #30 CMM 241-82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: MAC 5945

26 MAY 1968

DTG : 666941Z

FROM: GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

TO : GEN JOHNSON, CSA

ABRAMS AND PALMER CONCUR IN THE REPLACEMENT FOR
KOSTER SHOULD BE SEIGNIOUS OR GETTYS WITH FIRST PRIORITY
SEIGNIOUS. IF WE HAD TO DO IT FROM IN COUNTRY RESOURCES IT
WOULD HAVE TO BE A BRIGADIER NOT ON A MAJOR GENERAL LIST.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CITE: MAC 6156

11 MAY 1968

DTG : 110437Z

FROM: GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV, SAIGON

TO : GEN JOHNSON, CSA, WASHINGTON

INFO: GEN ABRAMS, DEPCOMUSMACV, SAIGON

LTC PALMER, DCG USARV, LONG BINH

REF: WDC 6804

IN REVIEWING REFERENCE MESSAGE, I MAKE THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS:

A. TOWNSEND IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH ABE AND MYSELF AS
MACV J3.

B. DESPITE MEL COBURN'S PHYSICAL PROBLEM OF A YEAR
AGO, BOB KOMER IS STILL INTERESTED IN HIM AS HIS DEPUTY.
KOMER BELIEVES AND I AGREE THAT SUCH A POSITION SHOULD BE
RETAINED. FORSYTHE HAS PROVEN TO BE INVALUABLE IN THIS JOB
AS AN ADVISOR AND ASSISTANT TO KOMER IN DEALING WITH MILITARY
ORGANIZATION AND AS A LIAISON WITH THE JCS AND THE GVN, THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IN PARTICULAR. FORSYTHE'S ENERGY AND
TALENTS HAVE BEEN FULLY AND PROFITABLY UTILIZED. HOWEVER, THE
ASSIGNMENT IS NOT PHYSICALLY DEMANDING, AND COBURN SHOULD
BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT. KOMER FEELS THAT IF COBURN WERE AWARE
THAT HE WAS KOMER'S FIRST CHOICE FOR THE JOB, HE MIGHT WELL
CONSIDER THIS A HIGHLY DESIREABLE TERMINAL ASSIGNMENT. REGARDLESS
OF COBURN'S PREFERENCE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE AN IDEAL ASSIGNMENT
FOR HIM IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ARMY.

C. I AGREE WITH GETTYS FOR THE AMERICAL DIVISION, AND URGE
THAT HE BE MADE AVAILABLE SOONEST.

BEST REGARDS.

READER UNCLASSIFIED
UNDER SEC. 1.5 PER
080724

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FROM: GEN WESTMORELAND, CS, WASH

TO: GEN ABRAMS, COMUSMACV, SAIGON, RVN

INFO: GEN WHEELER, CJCS, WASH

ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC, HAWAII

GEN HAINES, CINCUSARPAC, HAWAII

LTG MILDREN, DCG USARV, LONG BINH

SECRET

Deliver during duty hours

SUBJECT: Redeployment of Forces (U)

1. (U) Reference MAC 5286 EYES ONLY 210933Z Apr.

2. (S) Right now our plans for redeployment of

US units in RVN and their subsequent inactivation or retention in the force structure look like this:

a. Scheduled for inactivation:

FY 71

4th Inf Div (-)

23d (Americal) Div

199th Light Inf Bde

3d Bde, 9th Inf Div

FY 72

1st Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech)

Decision deferred on possible retention of the 4th Div flag in the active structure.

b. Balance scheduled for retention in force structure:

WDC NO 08066

DATE 2 May 70
REGRADING UNCLASSIFIED
SEC ARMY BY TAG PER

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