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—SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 92-357

By W.R., NARA, Date 2-14-94

Saturday, February 3, 1968 -- 12:30 p.m.

Mr. President:

I thought you would not wish <sup>me</sup> to discuss the nuclear weapons matter in a meeting.

I did not discuss this question with Gen. Taylor.

I did discuss it with Clark Clifford, but I am 100% sure he did not raise it with the Pentagon. The discussion was yesterday and he confined his advice to saying I had the duty to share my anxiety with you verbally.

I have discussed various aspects of the matter over the past ten days or so with Bob Ginsburgh. It first arose in my mind from recollection that the issue was raised with us by the French at the time of the crisis at Dienbienphu.

In particular, we chatted informally about three matters:

1. Could such a question arise at Khe Sanh?
2. Would nuclear weapons be relevant?
3. What steps could be taken to minimize the likelihood that the question would arise?

With respect to #, he asked me one day if he might explore the question informally with General Wheeler.

I told him he could if it was understood:

- this was in no sense a "White House request";
- the matter had never even been raised with the President, let alone by the President.

I did not envisage that any formal staff work would be set in train.

The fault, therefore, is mine.

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Monday, Feb. 19, 1968  
5:45 p. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Herewith a self-explanatory report to  
you from Sect. McNamara.

W. W. Rostow

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ attachment (log 685)