

Wednesday, August 9, 1967
9:45 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Here are the essential numbers for the NSC meeting this morning.

Present PL-480 set-aside from 1967 U.S. rice crop: 670,000 tons

150,000 tons to be delivered to Vietnam in fourth quarter 1967

400,000 tons to be delivered to Vietnam first and second quarters 1968

100,000 tons for Indonesia

650,000 tons

But calendar 1968 Vietnam rice requirements could run as high as 800-950,000 tons of imports. The above figures provide only 400,000 tons through PL-480. If Vietnam reserves held up, we would hope to finance most or all of the rest through cash sales. But if they are strapped and we have to provide more through PL-480, where could the balance of 400-550,000 tons come from?

Thailand-Taiwan 100,000

From 1968 rice crop to be delivered to Vietnam in last quarter 1968 200,000
300,000 tons

Possible deficit: 100-250,000 tons

Deficit could be met by:

- bigger than now estimated 1967 U.S. rice harvest (with normal PL-480 set-aside)
- normal crop, but enlarged PL-480 set-aside in November
- Vietnamese dollar purchases to draw down reserves.

W. W. R.