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Saturday, August 5, 1967  
11:50 a. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I should like to underline the implications of the proposal foreshadowed on the bottom of p. 10 of the draft speech sent up to you last night for possible delivery to the Orientalists (attached).

The Japanese would like to host a meeting of the more advanced Pacific nations to consider the future of assistance to Southeast Asia looking beyond the Viet Nam war.

They say you would get a great reception in Japan joining in such a summit meeting on a purely constructive subject.

They would also invite: Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The meeting could take place next year; and it could dramatize here at home the constructive things going forward in Asia and the will of all of us to look together at the postwar Asia with hope and confidence.

Depending on the course of events in Viet Nam in 1968, I am sure we shall need this theme for the campaign; and a well-prepared summit of this kind could help us.

I happen to believe -- unlike the Japanese -- that the beneficiaries as well as the donors should be there. But that issue could be sorted out.

Is this idea worth further exploration, in your judgment?

W. W. R.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

See me \_\_\_\_\_