

Mr. Rostow

54

Thursday, October 12, 1967

1. *copy*  
2. *Pres file*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President:

I recommend that you sign the attached letter to Australian Treasurer William McMahon acknowledging his note to you of October 3.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

*MW*  
MWright:hg

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October 13, 1967

Dear Mr. McMahon:

I was very glad to have your note of October 3 and the message from the Prime Minister which it conveyed. I enjoyed our talk and trust that you had a pleasant trip back to Canberra.

Sincerely,

*Lyndon B. Johnson*

The Honorable  
William McMahon  
Treasurer of Australia  
Canberra

LBJ:MW:right:hg

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D

3rd October, 1967

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Dear Mr President*

Shortly after I saw you yesterday I spoke to Mr Holt on the telephone and conveyed to him the substance of what you said to me about additional allied contributions in South Vietnam.

Mr Holt asked me to inform you that he expected to make a public statement in the House on Tuesday, 17th October, or, at the latest, on the Thursday of that week.

The reasons for choosing this day were, first that it would be tactically unwise to make a statement immediately after the Capricornia by-election which was held last Saturday; second, he will be speaking to Mr Holyoake, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, between the 2nd and 4th of this month and clearing our lines with him; and finally, that a statement of such importance should, in accordance with normal procedures in Australia, be made in the House of Representatives. As the House will be in recess from 5th October until 17th October, the Tuesday would be the earliest date on which the statement could be made.

The Prime Minister has also asked me to let you know that it is our present intention to maintain a presence in Malaya. The size and disposition of this contribution will depend on the size of our forces in South Vietnam and the duration of operations there.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-418

By W.M., NARA Date 7-27-95

*William McMahon*  
(William McMahon)

The President,  
The White House,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.