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Tuesday, October 10, 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Paul Hasluck,
5:30 p.m., October 10

Hasluck is in the U.S. to attend the UN General Assembly. You last saw him in April of this year when he was in Washington for the SEATO and ANZUS meetings. Hasluck will be accompanied by Ambassador Waller, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Sam Berger and I will be standing by if you want us.

Subjects for discussion:

Vietnam - You will want to express your thanks for Prime Minister Holt's letter of October 6 stating that the Australians will augment their forces by 1,700 men before the end of the year, and will announce these plans in Parliament on October 17. I suggest you give Hasluck your current assessment of the situation in Viet Nam, and of the prospects for additional troops from other troop contributing countries.

Thailand - Chances good for announcement soon of 8,000 to 10,000 additional troops.

Korea - President Park waiting for report from his Defense Ministry but we have hopes for a substantial increase, perhaps a division.

New Zealand - Understand cabinet decision expected within a week or so.

Philippines - Marcos unwilling consider augmentation until after November elections.

Malaysia-Singapore Defense. Hasluck discussed this subject in detail with Secretary Rusk yesterday. He pointed out that, despite the British withdrawal, Australia is willing to maintain a military presence in Malaysia-Singapore. Their forces, however, will clearly be inadequate

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to deal with any major security threat and they are, therefore, interested in our intentions should such a threat develop. Hasluck is not asking for any decisions from us at this point. He is merely acquainting us with his thinking.

You might wish to indicate that we look forward to discussing this problem with the Australians, particularly in view of their contribution in Viet Nam, but that we think the first step is consultations among the four Commonwealth partners (Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore).

W. W. Rostow

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