

6
Friday, October 20, 1967
4:10 p. m.

Pres file

MR. PRESIDENT:

Herewith some possible notes for your talk with Joe Alsop at 6:30 this evening:

1. As things get tougher, the men get separated from the boys. You wish to tell him two conclusions at which you have arrived:
 - In retrospect and at the present time, in the light of all the information available to you, there is nobody writing more soundly or intelligently about Viet Nam and Asia;
 - Your admiration for his steadiness at a time when there are wobblers all over the place is great.
2. You will be grateful for his assessment of where we are in the war and what the prospects are in the time ahead.
3. Your own feeling is that the best way to convey to our people this sense of progress is to have independent reporters like Alsop write about it; but does he have any advice for us on how to make more clear to our people that progress is taking place in a complex war without a fixed front?
4. As you know, the more you let Joe talk, the greater will be his pleasure at the session.

W. W. R.