

Thursday, October 19, 1967, 2:00 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Hanoi Editorial Reaction to Rusk Press Conference

The wire services have picked up a Hanoi radio broadcast based on a comment printed by the North Vietnamese official communist newspaper Nhan Dan. The wire services state that North Vietnam rejected U.S. offers for peace talks and bombing pauses.

State Department experts think the wire services reports are much harder than the text of the newspaper comment which follows:

"Refuting the worn-out peace talks and the offer for a conditional bombing pause, repeated by Rusk at the news conference, Nhan Dan said:

'Dean Rusk wondered why these proposals had been rejected. The reason is simple: everyone has seen that these proposals are but sheer deception. Having realized that the root of the war in Vietnam is U. S. aggression, the world people, including the Americans, have urged that the root be pulled out, that the United States stop its aggression against Vietnam, cease definitively and unconditionally its bombing of North Vietnam, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, withdraw U. S. troops from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs.'

It is clear that the newspaper text does not refer to the North Vietnamese Government but to "world people."

W. W. Rostow

BKS:amc