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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NIJ 94-453
By CL, NARA, Date 4-11-95 October 25, 1967

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I deeply appreciated your message of October 16 stating that your Government has decided to increase New Zealand's assistance to Viet-Nam by deploying a second infantry company. In view of your limited resources and the need to consider your future defense relations with Malaysia and Singapore, I know the decision could not have been an easy one. I believe, however, that you have chosen wisely, and that this renewed demonstration of New Zealand's determination will reinforce our efforts to convince Hanoi that its present course is futile and that it has no real alternative to negotiation.

I have also read your article of October 1, entitled "Aspects of the Viet-Nam Problem," and I want to express my warm admiration for this fine statement. It is one of the most lucid and compelling presentations I have ever seen of the reasons why we together are now contributing to the defense of South Viet-Nam.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lyndon B. Johnson

The Right Honorable
Keith J. Holyoake
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington

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October 25, 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is a suggested letter to Australia's Prime Minister Holt thanking him for his recent decision to send more troops to Viet-Nam.

I recommend that you sign the letter.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

See me _____

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Dear Harold:

I deeply appreciated your letter of October 6, and your splendid speech in Parliament October 17, about the substantial additional forces your Government has decided to contribute to Viet-Nam. Australia is once again giving the world eloquent proof of its determination to see our common task in Viet-Nam through to the finish. Even before your new troops enter the field, your announcement has served to reinforce our efforts to persuade Hanoi that its present course is futile, and that it has no real alternative to sitting down at the conference table.

I am aware that the decision could not have been an easy one, and that it was carefully considered in the light of the implications of the British withdrawal from Singapore and Malaysia which you discussed with Keith Holyoake. The outline of your thinking on this subject in your letter of October 6 was useful to me and enhanced the value of the excellent talks we had with Paul Hasluck.

Warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

B/ Lyndon B. Johnson

The Right Honorable
Harold E. Holt
Prime Minister of Australia
Canberra