

ACTION

81

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1967
11:10 a.m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Put file

SUBJECT: Response to Senator Fulbright's question of this morning

Senator Fulbright asked: Who is the enemy: Hanoi or Peking?

The answer is: both, in different ways.

If we fail in Viet Nam, two things will happen: Hanoi will take over South Viet Nam; U. S. military power will be moved off the Asian mainland. The combination of U. S. failure to deal with wars of national liberation and the removal of U. S. forces from the mainland will, in the judgment of all Asian observers, leave Southeast Asia at the mercy of Communist China. Without the U. S., there is no force in Southeast Asia capable of deterring Communist China.

Since 1954 that has been the assessment of the U. S. Government. It remains our assessment today.

W. W. R.

You may wish to raise this at lunch today and see if we can get agreement in the Government that this is the way to handle Fulbright's "confusion."

WWRostow:mz:rln