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Pres file

Tuesday, November 21, 1967 -- 8:15 a.m.

Mr. President:

You may wish to go over this list of issues we shall confront in the weeks ahead, although decision is not required today:

- response to NLF proposal for longer cease-fires at Christmas, New Years, and Tet.
- Southpaw: ARVN operations inside Laos against enemy bases.
- What we do about Cambodian bases -- now surfaced.
- How we present order of battle statistics:
 - MACV is completing retrospective estimate, including previous underestimate of guerilla forces;
 - intelligence community in Washington has not done retrospective estimate;
 - danger is press will latch on to previous underestimate and revive credibility gap talk.

(My recommendation is that Gen. Westmoreland present new order of battle statistics in context of year-end review in Saigon of changing course of the war in 1967 as opposed to 1966 -- removing emphasis from statistics themselves.)

W. W. Rostow

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By jes, NARS, Date 6-22-84

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