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February 9, 1968

Proposed Statement on Senator<sup>- Eugene</sup> McCarthy's claim that the military have asked the President for permission to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam.

Senator McCarthy's statement is false. It is also unfair to our armed services.

Decisions concerning nuclear weapons are solely the responsibility of the President. Discussion of the matter is not in the national interest.

We have nothing further to say.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Bill*

Friday, February 9, 1968  
9:40 a.m.

Mr. President:

Via: George Christian

Herewith a proposed response, along the line you outlined, should Senator McCarthy's allegation about nuclear weapons arise at the 11 o'clock briefing.

*Walt*  
W. W. Rostow