

11-7-17

MEMORANDUM

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INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Monday, March 25, 1968 -- 2:25 p.m.

Mr. President:

As you can see, Sec. Rusk was already rolling when Harry McPherson's suggestion arrived.

I had earlier this morning transmitted your desire for a positive proposal.

As background to this proposal, you should be aware that the enemy forces are maneuvering into position for simultaneous attacks in the western highlands, Hue, Quang Tri, as well as Khe Sanh. Moreover, there is very heavy movement of men and materiel on the infiltration trails.

If the offer came before they had launched their attacks, you would, in effect, be giving them a chance to draw back. If, as we suspect, they do not draw back, we would be in a position to fight the unfought battle against the major North Vietnamese units, flat out.

The next natural moment for initiative would come, as I have suggested, in May.

W. J. Rostow

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Authority 75C 3-31-80 letter

By sig, NARS, Date 7-22-80

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