

Thursday, October 3, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Position Taken on Bombing North Vietnam
by Vice President Humphrey

In the earlier memorandum which we gave you containing a summary of the positions taken by Vice President Humphrey in the National Security Council meetings on bombing North Vietnam, no mention was made of the Vice President's report to the Council on November 8, 1967. The reason was that the Vice President's report did not either approve or disapprove of the bombing. His comments were limited to the following two paragraphs:

A. "It was the judgment of all our military commanders, civilian advisers, and the Vietnamese leadership that the bombing is hurting the NVA badly. This is not only true in the DMZ but also in North Vietnam where thousands of people and great resources are diverted to repair the damage."

B. "Both American and Vietnamese military and civilian officials agreed that the bombing of North Vietnam is inflicting severe damage on the enemy and is certainly slowing down the rate of infiltration of men and materiel. They are convinced that the population of North Vietnam is feeling the effects of sustained bombing, and that severe logistical and psychological problems will continue throughout North Vietnam. Already thousands of people have been relocated and dislocations are widespread."

W. W. Rostow

BKS:ksb

~~TOP SECRET~~