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Friday, October 22, 1965, 3 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: World News Round-up

1. The overall world situation in short range terms is unusually stable. I see no policy decision required at your level for at least two weeks, unless there is an unexpected new development. (I except the decisions on aid expenditures and on PL-480 agreements which you have deliberately reserved for your own decision. These will come to you without fail as long as you want it that way.)

2. The most difficult current situation is still in the Dominican Republic. All concerned (Rusk, Vance, Raborn, Mann, Hoover and Bundy) agree that the best available prescription is to keep Ellsworth Bunker on the spot. Today is another moment of testing on the effort to clean up the situation in downtown Santo Domingo. Other tests lie ahead. Bunker is the one man who is trusted both by the Dominicans and by the various departments and agencies concerned here in Washington. While Tom Mann and I have differing views on this matter, as you well know, we have had no disagreement whatever on the tactics of recent weeks, and I am leaving it to Mann to recommend a successor to Bennett through Dean Rusk.

Meanwhile, the debate on the Dominican Republic will be stimulated soon by books from foolish journalists. We are getting advance copies in order to have full and annotated answers available for appropriate use as desired. Fulbright's speech today was defensive and did not really add anything to the argument.

3. In Vietnam, the campaign continues. The time of decision will come in about a month when we decide what we want to do in early 1966. The Defense Department is preparing various military proposals, and the State Department is reviewing the diplomatic choices. In my office, we are thinking about ways of reorganizing our nonmilitary effort so as to really put it on a level with the extraordinary achievement of the Army -- this is also on Lodge's mind. The month of November is not likely to be one of great movement or change.

4. In Europe, we have some important issues to straighten out before you see Erhard. In particular, we need to sort out our own position on NATO nuclear policy. We have having the options put in shape for you to consider at your leisure before Erhard. Meanwhile, we are doing our best to avoid an appearance of division within the government, with moderate success so far.

5. In India-Pakistan, peace-making goes very slowly. We continue to keep the weight in New York, where it belongs. Meanwhile, Arthur Dean is thinking hard about the basics of our policy in the subcontinent, and as and when dates are set for Shastri and Ayub, we will try to have the choices clearly worked out for your judgment.

6. Foreign assistance organization and policy are being reviewed both by the Cabinet committee under Rusk, and by your private committee under Clark Clifford. The object is again to give you a clearly stated set of choices, and my own private and particular hope is that we can show you a hard-headed and practical way of making this program serve the Johnsonian purposes so clearly and eloquently set forth in your statement on signing the Foreign Aid Act of this year. I believe this can be done, and so does Clark.

7. For the rest, there are odds and ends of problems all around the world -- Indonesia, Southern Rhodesia, U. N. General Assembly, and so on. But there is none that needs attention at your level. Communication between State, Defense, CIA and this office has been intimate and active throughout the last two weeks, and we will keep it that way. But we will not bother you until you tell us you are ready, except when we know that the subject is one on which you wish to make the decision yourself.

McG. B.