THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

2,8,007,1964

Honorable Dean Rusk Secretary of State Washington, D. C.

Dear Dean:

As requested by Bill Foster in his memorandum of 14 October, I am forwarding to you my comments on the study "The Indian Nuclear Problem: Proposed Course of Action". I am in general agreement with that paper as are the JCS; their comments, with which I agree, are attached.

It is my understanding that Chet Bowles will be returning to Washington in early December for consultation. We will have the benefit of his feeling for the Indian nuclear problem following his talks with Shastri. At about the same time as his return, I expect to receive from the Joint Chiefs a study of the implications of the Chinese nuclear espability. With the information then available, I believe it desirable that we review our overall security policy vis-a-vis India and other Asian states in light of the Chinese Communist threat. I think a review in December would be appropriate. I understand your staff agrees.

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Enclosure JCSM-900-64, 23 October 1964 (S)

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