

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1961

Dear Linc:

Many thanks for your proposal for general and complete mobilization. I assume you sent it to the State Department so that I don't have to buck it around. I promise we shall think about it hard.

I found your policy observations on Poles II also interesting; but I think you fell, to a degree, into the fallacy about which you warned us all so often and so eloquently; namely, that you put excessive emphasis on the results of the game. Specifically, I think the role of the umpires and their decisions should have been more carefully examined.

I also pass along to you an observation that Kuznetsov made to Jerry Weisner and me in Moscow when we were discussing the problem of communication. He said that in his experience diplomats were very skilled at communication and that, despite language barriers and the possibility of misinterpreting differences in meaning that attach to the same words, the problems of the world were real problems, not problems of misunderstanding. On the whole, I think he is right.

If I have my way we shall see an extension of the Poles II technique under more exalted auspices on a different subject.

My very best to you.

Yours,

Walt

W. W. Rostow

Professor Lincoln Bloomfield
Center for International Studies
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
50 Memorial Drive
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts