

DEFENSE

Continued From Page A-1

specific weapons systems proposals as the Nike-X antimissile missile and a super manned bomber force, said final decisions were still pending on several of these proposals.

While emphasizing America's lead over Russia in ICBMs, he seemed to imply an argument that no new weapons systems beyond those already planned are needed. But he would not say so.

He reviewed the ICBM situation after a reporter noticed him holding some papers and asked if he had a statement he wanted to read.

McNamara said he had anticipated a question about an "important matter" and was prepared to respond "since it was a major point of discussion with the President."

Johnson said he expects to see Eugene Black, who has been on a trip to Asia as his special representative for promoting cooperation in regional development plans, sometime this week or early next week—probably in Washington.

The President, who said he feels fine three weeks after having a polyp removed from his throat and an incisional hernia repaired, is expected to fly back to Washington this weekend to spend a few days in the capital.

Johnson also said Lincoln Gordon, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and Sol Linowitz, U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, will be travelling in South America between now and Dec. 18 consulting about the proposed inter-American summit conference.

He said they will report to him, either at his ranch or in Washington, on their return.

EVENING STAR - 7 DEC 66

At Least \$9 Billion Will Be Requested For Current Budget

By GARNETT D. HORNER
Star Staff Writer

AUSTIN, Tex.—The war in Viet Nam will cost another \$9 billion to \$10 billion in this fiscal year. President Johnson will ask Congress for the supplemental funds in January.

Johnson told reporters here yesterday that this request will raise the current defense budget to between \$67 billion and \$68 billion.

Both the President and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara shied away from giving any estimate of defense spending for the 1968 fiscal year which starts next July 1.

There are indications that the military budget will rise at least \$7 billion or \$8 billion, helping to push total federal spending up to a level between \$137 billion and 140 billion.

The President's figures underscored the dilemma he faces over raising taxes. He repeated that he still hasn't made a decision on that.

McNamara disclosed that the Soviet Union is producing and deploying intercontinental ballistic missiles faster than previously estimated. But he emphasized that American defense planning had hedged against such a possibility.

Seek to Avoid Supplementals

The President said he plans to make the defense spending estimate in his January budget message big enough to avoid asking another supplemental appropriation a year from January.

He drew up the budget he submitted last January on the assumption that supplemental funds would be asked at the

halfway point in the fiscal year if Viet Nam war costs were still rising.

Asked if he planned the same technique next year, Johnson said: "No, I think we will review every request on the basis of a full year's operation and ask for all the funds that the chief, the secretary and the President agree will be needed without a supplemental."

Johnson and McNamara joined in the press conference in the President's office in Austin's new federal building after conferring for much of the day with the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Review Military Plans

In addition to supplemental needs, the President said they reviewed recommendations made by the armed services for the fiscal 1968 defense budget.

While there was "general agreement," he said "there are a few specific items yet to be resolved." He said there would be more such conferences before the budget is submitted to Congress.

McNamara, refusing to indicate plans regarding such

See DEFENSE, Page A-6