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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

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March 15, 1966

NSC REVIEW COMPLETED

Dear Admiral Raborn:

I am interested in the subject of the control of geographic borders by physical obstructions, and I remember that the USSR succeeded in erecting fences and walls, together with protective instruments of all sorts, for distances of many hundreds of miles.

Because of the long experience your organization has had in dealing with Soviet defensive measures, I am wondering if you could inform me whether or not the Soviets successfully used these obstructions in forest areas, mountainous areas, or in jungles?

What is in the back of my mind is the problem of sealing off the western border of South Vietnam. Some persons have said it would take atomic bombs to clear the jungles and forests, and I am reluctant to accept that judgment as a conclusion. I have flown over that terrain and can appreciate the difficulty of dealing with the jungle canopy; nevertheless, I am wondering if the problem is completely insoluble. I would very much appreciate having your views.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Hubert H. Humphrey
Hubert H. Humphrey

Admiral William F. Raborn
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia

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