MEMORANDUM FOR WALT ROSTOW

Dick Fryklund called this afternoon and said that Secretary McNamara was anxious that we get the Order of Battle figures out on the record as soon as possible. He said that he had no strong feelings about how this should be done but simply wanted the substance of the briefing we have had before us put out in one form or another.

I expressed some surprise at this in view of our long discussions on Monday and reminded Dick that we had agreed to raise this question with Ambassador Bunker during his sojourn here. I also pointed out that there was general agreement amongst Committee members that the Order of Battle figures be published eventually, but that we were still concerned about doing this in a manner which would properly represent the actual situation in Vietnam, i.e., the increasing attrition of enemy forces, rather than in a way which would confuse the reporters and lead to unfavorable stories.

You may wish to ask Secretary McNamara what he had in mind when he instructed Dick to call about this matter.

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cc: Bill Jorden