MARCH 22, 1968

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SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES ON MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH GENERAL ABRAMS

## Connie:

Mr. Christian said to give this to Tom. I believe it is a supplement to some notes of Tom's.

jean bean wean

- 1. TO GEORGE CHRISTIAN for review and corrections
- 2. TO TOM JOHNSON supplemental notes.

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April 26, 1968

## SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES ON MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT WITH GENERAL ABRAMS

March 22, 1968

The President asked General Abrams if we are overestimating North Vietnamese strength in replacing their losses during TET. The General said this was true, and General Wheeler added that the losses the enemy has taken are very serious. He said there had been 53,000 since the beginning of the offensive.

The President asked why press reports were so bad. General Abrams said he was at wit's end on how to get people to report the war the way it is. He said he took Johnny Apple of the New York Times with him on one all-day excursion. He said they got out of the chopper at one RF post, there was a province chief and American adviser, wet and muddy from being out all night. He said the province chief told him they got some VC. Abrams said Apple never wrote this, but wrote only the bad things.

General Wheeler expressed the view that the average newspaperman in Vietnam is immature, and thinks that the Pulitzer prize is not won by writing good things.

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