

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

268-c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

June 10, 1967

SUBJECT: A Statement by You on Civilian Casualties and the Holy Places

Understandably, you have been reluctant to go on record on the Middle East. But some gesture toward Arab popular opinion would be helpful for those moderate regimes which are trying to hold their own extremists at bay, including Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Kuwait.

One way to get at this, which would not involve you in controversy with the Israelis, would be a prompt statement by you regarding the holy places and civilian casualties, particularly in Jordan. It would be particularly appropriate if this could hit the Sunday morning papers.

Such a statement is attached.

  
W. W. Rostow

June 10, 1967

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY RUSK,  
OR AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG

I have learned with regret of the considerable damage  
inflicted on the Holy City of Jerusalem. This area is sacred  
to the three great western faiths and men of all three faiths  
are the poorer because of the damage done. As soon as peace  
is restored, we hope arrangements can be made promptly so  
that men of all nations and faiths may have free access to all  
the Holy Places.

*caught up in the fighting of recent days.* *and responsible*

But more regrettable than damage done to buildings is the  
loss of human life, particularly in the unhappy state of Jordan,  
but also in <sup>all the</sup> other countries in the area. <sup>The human costs</sup> We cannot but feel  
<sup>deep</sup> a sadness when we contemplate the human costs of war in the  
<sup>Asia - and deeply moving.</sup> Middle East. We have stressed the importance of protecting  
<sup>The plight of refugees - old and new -</sup> the civilian population and encouraging the people <sup>under their</sup>  
<sup>required the urgent concern of the governments of the</sup> ~~care to remain in their homes and not to flee.~~ We trust the  
<sup>region and those who would now seek</sup> respective governments are acting with due responsibility in  
this urgent matter.

*in particular,*

*all* *at final and constructive settlement of this haunting human problem.*