

the circumstances, but my point is that the cost is going to have to be picked up later.

Aircraft is another example. We had to take aircraft away from the Reserve components. An example is the old C-123, a very valuable plane, and some lighter aircraft from the National Guard. This action was necessary and proper. Again, however, my point is that those things are not figured in the replacement cost in this budget and perhaps shouldn't be. But they are running up the bill for the future.

The Atlantic Fleet has been drawn upon significantly to support Southeast Asia and the deficiencies will have to be remedied. Otherwise we will have a greatly diminished defense effort in that area.

The fiscal year 1968 budget does provide money, which the preceding two didn't, for the longtime lead items, like airplanes, the production base for expendable ammunition, and logistic equipment. This is very important and, in this respect, the budget is sound. It provides also for trucks, material handling equipment, and the communications equipment which is needed. But those are items which we are having to procure and we will have to procure even more in the future.

In addition, this budget is based upon a planned level troops to be deployed. As you know, that number is still classified, but it has been announced that we have around 438,000 men in-country now, and that was at a very recent date. This budget is based upon a higher number of men than that. However, based on what I can learn and what General Westmoreland and others have said, and on records that we have seen, it is my personal opinion, and I have said this publicly, that by the end of this calendar year we will perhaps have 500,000 men in South Vietnam. That is more than are planned for in the present budget.

When you deploy just a few thousand men above the present planning, you run into added costs mighty fast—mighty fast. Compared to the number of men that are there now, 50,000 seems a small number. But you go to chewing up millions of dollars mighty fast if you add in 50,000 above this budget.

You know what the budget is based on. It is a classified figure. I won't mention it here. But if you should put in 50,000 above what is planned for, just to train them and transport them and support them, why you would have an increase there of from \$4 to \$6 billion mighty fast. That is on top of the present budget. Of course, from the news we know already there has been an escalation of the air attacks and other matters.

I emphasize that I am not trying to hold anyone to a precise figure. With a big budget like this, some \$75 billion, we are going to have slippages, variations and changes in the course of a year. However, this budget is not enough in my opinion, and it could very well happen, as I have suggested that billions more will be needed.

Let me emphasize again that the adequacy of this budget is, at best, limited to the scale of military operations and size of deployed military forces which had been approved when the budget was formulated late last year. The amount in the budget, if adequate to begin with—and this is doubtful—will remain adequate only so long as our troop commitments and the level of military operations do not exceed those which had approval at the time it was presented. In other words, the budget remains valid only as long as the planning level on which it is based and other planning factors on which it was based remain valid.