

Senator STENNIS. That is right.

Representative BROCK. Are we taking any gamble with the security of this country by reducing these inventories, or are they noncritical inventories?

Senator STENNIS. Well, we have a lot of strength in addition to the strength we are using in the war in Vietnam, but the more of our forces that we display there and the more we stretch out and use up our reserves and materiel, the weaker we will be if we should have an attack somewhere else. That has been something we have been thinking about a lot.

These drawdowns and all have affected the situation. I don't want to leave the impression that I think now that we are in a critical shape, because when I talk to you, I would be talking to our possible adversaries as well. In addition, we have a lot in reserve, but I don't think we can just go along happily assuming that we could carry out all our commitments alone.

That is one reason why I agree so completely with Congressman Rumsfeld about the Asiatics, and with Senator Percy, too.

Representative BROCK. I think we all share that desire.

Senator STENNIS. Yes.

Representative BROCK. Thank you very much, Senator.

Senator STENNIS. Thank you.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Thank you, Mr. Brock.

Senator Stennis, I do have one brief question. I apologize.

Senator STENNIS. That is all right, Senator.

Chairman PROXMIRE. All the discussion has been around the possibility of a 50,000-troop increase above the estimate in the budget. Many well-informed people in and out of Congress have estimated 100,000. I know that is not your figure. If it is 100,000, can we simply double your figure and say it would be not \$5 billion, give or take a billion dollars, but \$10 billion, give or take \$2 billion? In other words, can we just double that or is there some other factor that would be involved here?

Senator STENNIS. Well, my figures now are based upon an estimate of 50,000 men above the budget as planned, you see.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I understand.

Senator STENNIS. The added cost would be mainly for training, transport, and support.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Right.

Senator STENNIS. Yes, generally if you double that to 100,000, it would take almost twice as much money as I estimated, although maybe not fully twice as much; yes.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Stennis, I want to thank you for a very fine, I would say a brilliant presentation. You are most, most helpful to us this morning. You have certainly immensely enlightened us, and have helped these hearings greatly.

Thank you very much.

Senator STENNIS. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I really thank you for inviting me. It was your invitation, not my solicitation, as you remember. I am delighted though to meet with you and the