

bombs) at a rate of about \$110 million per month. That works out to a combined rate of \$2.5 billion a year. At that time there were about 190,000 U.S. servicemen in South Vietnam, so for the calculation of costs at the 200,000-man level, the figure has to be adjusted upward a bit, to \$2,650,000,000.

In testifying at congressional hearings, McNamara and other Defense Department witnesses furnished numerous bits of information about U.S. aircraft operations in the Vietnam war, including losses in 1965 and numbers of sorties over various periods (one flight by one plane counts as one sortie). Sorties per month increased dramatically during 1965, and despite low loss rates per 1,000 sorties, losses added up to large numbers over the course of the year: 275 fixed-wing aircraft lost as a result of "hostile action" alone, and 177 helicopters lost, 76 as a result of "hostile action," 101 in accidental crashes and other mishaps. Assuming continuation of 1965 ratios between sorties and losses, estimated annual attrition at a 200,000-man force level works out, in rounded figures, like this:

475 fixed-wing tactical planes, at \$1,800,000.....	\$855, 000, 000
165 other fixed-wing planes (transport, observation), at \$200,000.....	33, 000, 000
320 helicopters, at \$250,000.....	80, 000, 000
Total.....	968, 000, 000

A figure for aircraft spares was arrived at by first calculating total flying costs of the aircraft operations (information on average flying costs per hour for various types of military aircraft is available). That came to \$800 million a year. Spares represent, on average, 20 percent of flying costs, which comes to \$160 million. With the addition of a minimal \$25 million to allow for spares required to repair planes hit by enemy fire, the total for aircraft spares comes to \$185 million.

Little information is available about materiel chewup, apart from ammunition and aircraft. In the absence of direct evidence, however, Defense Department procurement orders provide a basis for rough estimates. It is assumed—and this is a bit of a leap—that the annual attrition of weapons, vehicles, and equipment is equivalent to one-third of the increase in procurement orders in those categories (as measured by the increase in prime contract awards from the second half of 1964 to the second half of 1965). From that procedure emerges a round figure of \$600 million for attrition of hard goods other than aircraft, ammunition, and ships (in effect, ship losses are assumed to be zero). That brings total procurement to \$4.4 billion.

The three categories together—military personnel, O. & M., procurement—add up to \$10,440,000,000. That is the approximate annual cost of the U.S. operations in the Vietnam war at the 200,000-man level reached early this year. To that figure must be added support for South Vietnamese military forces. (For fiscal 1967, military assistance to South Vietnam will be included in the defense budget.) Counting supplemental requests, total military aid to South Vietnam comes to more than \$1 billion in the current fiscal year. In the early 1960's, military aid to South Vietnam ran to something like \$100 million a year; the \$900 million difference can be considered a Vietnam war cost. In addition, the United States pays \$50 million to help support South Korean forces in South Vietnam.