Rostow
July 10, 1962

Dear:

I thought that my duty in the Rostow matter was quite plain. The allegation that the new strategic plan as a basis for foreign policy might be conditioned upon the belief that the Soviet Union was "mellowing" and therefore called for a softer posture on the part of the United States was based upon the statement of one who had actually seen part of the plan and, therefore, called for appropriate comment.

I felt that the right action in these circumstances was to have Mr. Rostow come before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate to be questioned, and this was finally done.

The power the Senate has under the Constitution to assent to treaties and also to confirm ambassadors and those who represent us abroad, carries with it a special duty and a special interest in the whole field of foreign policy. Therefore, I earnestly hope, as I suggested to the Committee, that the plan be submitted to the Senate Committee at an appropriate time for further examination. This is, after all, a government where the people are the source and fountainhead of all power and authority and I believe that their representatives are entitled to be fully advised of any such plans and programs before they become so rigid as to be unchangeable.

I am delighted to have your views.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen