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Allen-Scott Report**McNamara  
In Control**By **ROBERT S. ALLEN**  
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Mr. Allen

Defense Secretary McNamara is breaking more new ground to expand and tighten his direct control over the conduct of the expanding war in Viet Nam.

For this purpose, he has resorted to the extraordinary step of setting up a special staff in his own office.

Made up of officers from all the services and headed by a brigadier general, this unprecedented group is under the immediate direction of Solis Horwitz, Assistant Defense Secretary in charge of administration.

The special staff communicates directly with General Westmoreland, ground commander in Viet Nam, and Admiral Sharp, naval commander.

Directly related to this unannounced innovation is the dispatch to Viet Nam of a special task force to look into shortages, particularly 2.75 inch air-to-ground rockets.

This high-explosive projectile is being expended at a high rate, and McNamara reputedly wants to know why. He is credited as considering it excessive.

Brigadier General Hal McCown, former senior adviser to the II Vietnamese Corps, heads this special task force of five officers and five civilians. Second in command is Max Stewart, management analyst in the Army Comptroller Office.

The group will submit its findings directly to McNamara.

The special staff McNamara has set up in his own office is arousing critical conjecture in both congressional and Pentagon quarters.

Private concern is being voiced over whether the Joint Chiefs of Staff are being bypassed, and the possible effect on their statutory authority and functions as prescribed in the National Defense Act.

It is being pointed out that Title V, Section 171-C expressly states Congress must be informed of any "substantial" change in their role, as follows:

—"(c)(1) . . . no function which has been established by law to be performed by the Department of Defense, or any officer or agency thereof, shall be substantially transferred, reassigned, abolished, or consolidated until the expiration of the first period of 30 calendar days of continuous session of Congress following the date on which the Secretary of Defense reports the pertinent details of the action to be taken to the Armed Services Committee of the Senate and of the House of Representatives."

Neither committee has been notified of this move.

Similarly, it is asserted Title X, Section 141-D: (d)(1) explicitly designates the Joint Chiefs of Staff to "prepare strategic plans and provide for the strategic direction of the armed forces."

The question is being raised whether McNamara's special staff conflicts with these two statutes.

The Treasury has recommended to President Johnson that military scrip be issued U.S. troops in Viet Nam to curb the drain on our gold reserve.

It has been definitely established that most of the mounting flood of dollars spent by U.S. troops winds up in French hands. The French have large holdings in Viet Nam, including the principal banks. The De Gaulle government uses these dollars to further raid the steadily diminishing U.S. gold reserve.

Military scrip would largely plug this loophole.

Washington has one of the largest "President's Clubs" in

the country, and its \$1,000-a-head members are being pointedly prodded to fork over — again!

Each has received a personal letter from Democratic National Treasurer Richard Maguire notifying them that if they want to revel at a special party for President Johnson, they had better hurry and pay up their \$1,000 annual dues.

That's the sole card of admission to this high-priced exclusive affair.

It takes place September 15 at the home of anti-poverty and peace corps director Sargent Shriver, and Maguire guarantees "President Johnson will be with us on this occasion." Also that "every effort will be made to make the party as informal as possible, so everyone will thereby have a more pleasant time."

In addition to stressing that "each member must renew his (\$1,000) membership as soon as possible," Maguire urges they "bring one guest who it is believed will want to join the Club."

"As you know," continues Maguire, "we are anxious to expand our membership, and believe this will be a perfect occasion for you to bring along a new member. The President will be delighted to meet him."

Exact state of Democratic National Committee finances is a great mystery among party leaders.