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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *J.F.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: ROY L. ASH *Ash* *J.F.*  
SUBJECT: Defense Budget Reductions

As you suggested, I have checked about the New York Times article which reported a Defense spokesman as saying that there would be no actual reduction in defense spending this year. The transcript of the press conference held by the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, indicates that the Times article misinterpreted the intent of his comments.

Defense has contacted Mr. John Finney, who covered the press conference for the Times, and reiterated their intention to carry out your initiatives. Mr. Finney said he would try to clarify the misleading article in his subsequent writings on the Defense budget.

I am attaching a copy of a letter to Mr. Finney from Defense.

Attachment