Held Same Strong Views Under Kennedy

Rostow Riding High in Administration As the Rock of Johnson's Viet Policy

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Before an audience of foreign journalists recently, President Johnson heaped so much praise on Walt Whitman Rostow that the Presidential aide seemed, in the words of one of the visitors, to puff up "as proud as a peacock."

Rostow has reason to be proud and he has reason to be as happy as a bureaucrat can be. His long-time tough recommendations for the Vietnam war are now Johnson policy.

As far back as June, 1961, Rostow was saying that the kind of "operation run from Hanoi against South Vietnam is as clear a form of aggression as the violation of the 38th parallel by the North Korean Army in June, 1950."

In October, 1961, after a visit to Vietnam, Rostow backed a recommendation by Gen. Maxwell Taylor that an American military task force of perhaps 10,000 men be sent for self-defense and perimeter security and, if the South Vietnamese were hard pressed, to produce an emergency reserve. That report as much as anything led President Kennedy to take the irreversible steps into the Vietnam war.

In addition, as Arthur Schlesinger Jr. has since recounted, "Rostow argued so forcefully for a contingency plan of retaliation against the North, graduated to match the

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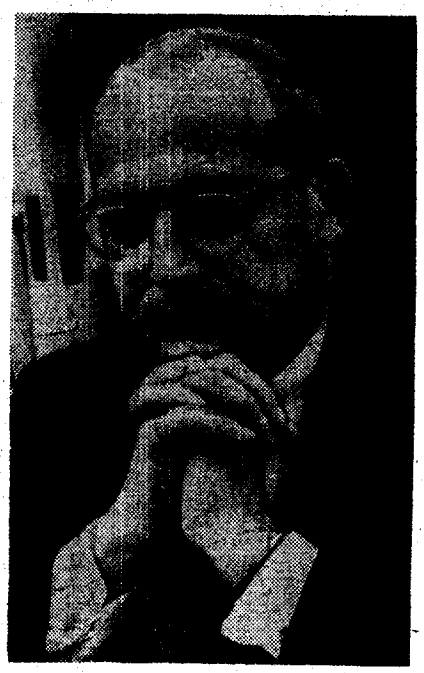

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WALT W. ROSTOW