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Rostow's Option for Vietnam

Austin, Tex.

Former White House adviser Walt Rostow said yesterday that President Ford and Congress should consider occupying part of North Vietnam with two Marine divisions to force the Communists to honor the 1973 peace agreement.

Rostow said his "overriding concern" is the President and Congress agree on a strategy for peace in Southeast Asia and other volatile parts of the world.

"The Congress and the President should get together in the face of the dangers that extend throughout Asia and elsewhere," Rostow said in an interview on the CBS morning news.

"Among all the options was this one — two Marine divisions would go in and hold a perimeter with air and sea support until they honor the agreement of 1973.

"This is not a new proposal. In 1966 I recommended this strategy to President Johnson as one possible way of shortening the war."

Later, commenting on whether the plan for the use of the Marines was "politically realistic," Rostow said, "Under the present evidence I would say not... There are other ways in which the situation could be stabilized."

Rostow, now a University of Texas professor, served as deputy special assistant to President Kennedy in 1961 and as national security affairs adviser to President Johnson from 1966-69.

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