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CONGRESS APPROVES 70 BILLION MILITARY BUDGET

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 15 Sep 67 L

[Text] The U.S. Congress has approved appropriations for military needs in the current fiscal year to the sum of 70 billion dollars. More than 20 billion dollars have already been (?allocated) for continuing the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Perhaps nothing characterizes Washington's aggressiveness so clearly, writes our commentator, as these two figures--70 and 20 billion dollars. What are these astronomical sums used for? Above all, for maintaining an enormous army inside the country and beyond its borders. Thus the United States has almost 1.6 million troops in other countries. Washington has scattered its divisions for carrying out gendarmelike occupationist (?activity), for suppressing national liberation in various regions, and for supporting [words indistinct] over the whole world.

This is particularly clear from the example of Vietnam. As the Joint Economic Committee of Congress announced, expenditure for the war for the fiscal year 1966-1967 was double the preliminary calculation. Besides, according to the opinion of the U.S. experts themselves, in January 1968 several billion dollars will be added to the present 20 billion.

The expansion of aggression is automatically accompanied by the growth of the military budget. [Words indistinct] at present the U.S. administration has excluded a peaceful solution of the Vietnam problem and openly plans the escalation of the aggression.