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Monday, October 9, 1967 -- 1:40 p.m.

Mr. President:

Pres file

Cabot Lodge called to report the following.

1. He is seeing Gen. Eisenhower who is "enthusiastic" about the Douglas committee. Cabot believes that Gen. Eisenhower's strong backing for this "middle position" will not only give your position strength but make it more difficult for certain Republican Senators to get off the reservation.

2. Cabot has been working hard on Conant. Conant has raised certain questions about our policy to which Cabot has developed answers with the help of Gen. DePuy in the Pentagon. Conant now says he will join the committee. Moreover, he is going to talk with Jack McCloy who has proved something of a problem along with Mac Bundy. Conant is going to take the line with McCloy that:

-- The President's position is an intermediate and moderate position between unwise extreme actions in Vietnam;

-- The President is the best informed man in the country on how to implement that position and he, Conant, is willing to go with him and urges McCloy to do likewise.

3. Lodge says he hopes the committee will not get into technical military or diplomatic details but concentrate on getting our people informed on the following kinds of things:

Why are we there?

The history of the Vietnamese people and the problems which history has given them to overcome?

What has already been accomplished in Vietnam towards our objectives?

What tasks remain to be done?

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By WLR, NARA, Date 10-24-91

WWRostow:rln

W. W. Rostow

cc: John Roche  
Ernest Goldstein

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