

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 92-459
NARA, Date 4/17/96

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SECRET/EXDIS/EYES ONLY

March 20, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

Subject: Forthcoming Visit by Baggs and Ashmore to Hanoi.

William Baggs called me from Miami this morning to say that he and Ashmore had been invited to come to Hanoi, and were planning to leave early next week. He said that they had sent a message to Hanoi suggesting such a visit, and that a prompt response had arrived saying for them to come to Phnom Penh and pick up their visas. Their passports are already in order as journalists.

Baggs said that he well understood that there could be reservations here about Ashmore, and asked whether there was any point in his talking to us before he goes. I told him that in any situation of this sort it was certainly wise for responsible visitors to understand the state of the play and the questions that were on our minds. I said that I could not undertake to answer whether we would have any message for him, but that we would give the matter thought.

We finally agreed that he would come to Washington on Friday night and call me at home on Saturday morning. He prefers to deal with the Under Secretary and myself, but I told him that the Governor and others might turn out to be the appropriate ones to handle it.

If the Secretary agrees, my suggestion would be that Davidson and Isham prepare a summary of the present position relative to San Antonio, with recent public statements attached. This could be the basis of any oral discussion on Saturday by whomever the Secretary may designate.

1963 MAR 21 PM 11 William P. Bundy

Cc: The Secretary
The Under Secretary
Gov. Harriman
Mr. Habib (for Mr. Isham)
S/S (for Mr. Walt Rostow, Mr. Helms and Secretary Clifford)

EA:WFBundy:mk

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