

Dear Bo,

(10840)

A cable is going to "H acid" recommending that he pick up Big Minh's invitation to form a "brain trust" to work with him (Minh) ~~and~~ by assigning at least 3 key, full-time advisors (one from State, one from AID and one military) to work with Minh, ~~and~~ The and their principal assistants. The advisors would be free of any ^{executive} responsibility within their own parent organizations.

This idea was generated in State by Joe Mendenhall who saw himself as ^{possibly} the chief political advisor. I have been able to modify the original cable ^{so as} to leave it up to Minh & Tho to tell "H acid" who they would like as advisors. I tried to get them to add the position of an "operations coordinator" for "H acid" ^{separate from the DCM,} who would guide and manage the advisors for him. The latter was thought to be a good idea but possibly objectionable to Lodge and was therefore not included. I didn't want to kill the ~~advisory~~ "advisors" idea altogether.

Can you get to Bui Diem and let him know that Lodge may be wanting to know who Minh and Tho would like as advisors to

6 Jan 64

(Thanks to The)
That They will respond with
resounding "Mustache" as principal
advisor. ~~with~~ Or you may have better
channels, although Bill Dierin probably
has as much influence as any
through him. It wouldn't be bad to
have Quat agitating for The Mustache's
return also.

Am attempting to write a brief
paper on this subject. If & when
completed I will send you a copy
for "Haid"

all the best,
v.