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Hand carried to  
Pres 9/3

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

September 2, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Secure Line Telephone Conversation with  
Ambassador Lodge, September 2, 1969

Cabot Lodge called me this morning via secure line from Paris and reported the following:

1. Cabot recommends Andrew Heiskell to be the next Ambassador to Paris.

2. Cabot reported that Senators Javitz and Mundt who were recently through Paris, ~~and Senator Hubert~~ that public opinion appears to be turning against North Vietnam. Cabot wanted you to know that he felt that we should not be overly impressed by this reported shift. In the past, Cabot maintains this has been interpreted as a possible signal to toughen the U.S. line. When we have done so, public reaction subsequently turned against us.

3. Cabot reported that his staff has studied North Vietnamese infiltration and strength figures in the south and has concluded that over the past year their overall strength has dropped by between 65,000 and 105,000 men. Cabot has concluded that this might provide a basis for a settlement.

4. Lodge stated that Phil Habib is coming to Washington this weekend and will attend meetings on the subject of "ceasefire." I understand that State is attempting to arrange a series of conferences which would include Bunker and Habib and members of the bureaucracy responsible for Vietnam policy. Habib will represent Cabot in recommending that we make a ceasefire proposal to the other side.

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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