

October 15, 1969

Mr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Henry:

Several separate points:

1. We did appreciate so much the long, frank discussion on the SALT last Wednesday. It will be a big help on our trip and I hope we can put it to some use. My personal reaction to your general conception was excellent. The real bind is in the contents of the boxes and it is on those that I hear considerable criticism. Perhaps there will be a chance to look into these on the trip if the talks involving Ruina get underway.
2. The CBW matter must be coming to a head soon. Please do call on Matt if he can be of any assistance or if our report to you needs rewriting. I shall be back on November 2nd, if I can help any thereafter.
3. My next scheduled visit to Washington is November 13th and 14th. Perhaps I can see you at that time. Dick Neustadt has shown me the letter he is sending you. Do not take it amiss. While it is consistent with his view of things I am sure it is prompted somewhat by his disability which is causing him considerable anguish.

October 15, 1969

4. The Moratorium unfolds without being very illuminating. No one pulls together the two essential points: (1) that the President has done all that the doves specifically suggested a year ago but (2) it has not produced the desired result. This reopens the matter and it would be healthy if both sides could admit it. And the exercise should teach everyone that the risk of focusing on prescriptions instead of goals. Along these lines I have one suggestion: that the President, considering the terrible crunch on the social fabric that will come whenever the war ends and the need we spoke of for binding up the wounds and reestablishing unity, there would be great virtue in his appointing perhaps initially in private, a council of elders to advise on terminating the war and reconciling the country. If this were wisely chosen, and clearly representative they could be of some help now as a sounding board and of immense help later in pulling the nation together.
5. I had an unexpected long talk with Harriman on Wednesday. He would like to see you again. I'm sure you know he will argue for broadening the Saigon government to make it completely representative of all but the NLF and urge going slow on Vietnamization so that Thieu will not need such a strong, exclusive bond with his military. But seeing him again would be useful I think. He clearly likes you and may have a useful role in the matter mentioned in the previous paragraph.
6. We had a beautiful weekend in Vermont. The quiet contrasted with the frantic telephoning two years ago. But we missed you and look forward to your sharing it with us again when your work is done.

Sincerely,

Paul Doty

P.S. I am sending a carbon of this to your home in the event that you won't find it in the deluge at your office.

PD:gp