

TEL CON

Harriman

Ball

August 20, 1963 4:55pm

Ball called concerning the possible Saigon situation breaking wide open and the pending arrival of Cabot. Was inclined to think that perhaps Cabot should not arrive in the middle of the repression because he couldn't present his credentials and would be quite useless there without them

Harriman was in complete agreement saying that Cabot was not scheduled to arrive for six days and that he saw no reason for any change at this time.

Harriman expressed the thought that it was hard to know exactly what was going to happen and felt the whole thing unbelievable, that Diem could be so stupid, and that Nolting had always taken the position that disaster would happen if anything were to happen to him, however Harriman did not feel this was true. Thought that as much contingency planning as possible had been done.



This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University
2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu

[Read related article:](#)

**New Light in a Dark Corner: Evidence on the Diem
Coup in South Vietnam, November 1963**

2020-11-01