

1305 30th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.
15 Sept. 1963

Dear Bo,

I was all set to go see your mother with the letter. When I called ahead of time she said she couldn't receive me because she was in bed, that ~~xx~~ she had been getting dizzy spells recently, which made her go to bed for most of the day. She wanted me to mail the letter which I was going to carry out to her. I will have Emma carry it to her. I have spoken to Val about your mother and he says that your sending ~~Bernard~~ Dorothy back is a very ~~xxxxxx~~ sensitive point with her - she ^{apparently} doesn't want Dorothy she wants you which is understandable. Val and Emma had a practical nurse going in to help her from the local hospital. According to this nurse, ~~which~~ your mother is weak from lack of a proper diet and this weakness is in turn preventing her from properly caring for herself (cooking ~~xxxxxx~~ adequate meals, etc). Your mother will not accept a stranger into the house to look after her. The neighbors ~~have~~ have been helping but this has been limited naturally. My advice is to ~~see~~ send Dorothy as a stop-gap measure until you can get away yourself and I'm sending you a cable now recommending this. Your mother will want to know definitely when you are coming because, ~~although~~ although Dorothy's presence will solve the food and daily care problem ~~xx~~ it will not solve the psychological ~~xxxxxx~~ problem of her need ~~xx~~ for you.

I'm sorry not to do more on this sooner but every minute~~s~~ has been consumed by trying to influence the big decision on Vietnam about to be made. I havnt had a chance to look after my father ~~et~~ either or help him yet although he is in bad shape. I will stay an extra week to do this and also to try to fight a right decision through. The big obstacle to a realistic/ policy is the Pentagon they are also the obstacle to Ed's coming out I am sorry to say. Krulak has pretty effectively stabbed him in the back with McNamara. Krulak's report was the most incredible whitewash you have ever heard. I spoke my ~~piece~~ piece directly to the President right afterwards - told him what the situation was, that Nhu had to go if ~~we~~ we were going to win, that we could get him out of there with a carefully managed ~~a~~ psywar campaign but we had ~~xx~~ no campaign manager and that I strongly recommended that Ed be dispatched immediately. He thanked me for the recommendation ~~of~~ on Ed. I then pointed out the obvious restrictions on Krulak's survey and challenged ~~McNamara~~ the Defense contention that the war was being won so handily. I cited the Delta in general and Long An in particular as an example of how we were not winning at the current time. I also recommended that only the objectives and the main strategy be decided back here and that the tactics and timing be left entirely in the hands of Lodge.

~~xxxxxx~~ One thing is hurting us right now. Keyes Beech has ~~xx~~ been writing a series on the Delta from Cantho which is reflecting the Corp point of view. Can you get him to Long An or Dinh Tuong at the Sector ~~level~~ or feed him the statistics/which will ^{and facts} will show what is going on. Dont let him quote directly from our report because it has been disseminated back here.

A fellow named Sheldon ~~a~~ has been sent out by McCone to investigate what is going on in the Station. I dont know him or how reliable he is but you or Mike should try to get at him and tell him the truth. I havnt been able to get to ~~Mc~~ McCone yet but hope to next week and will attempt to lower the boom on our tranquilized friend. However, this must be backed up by what ~~xx~~ Sheldon reports.

Cant think of anything else now. Please deliver the enclosed to Mike. regards

We also need some reporting on what the military would do if Nhu tried to negotiate with the DRV. Can you help. I have visited my contacts but there is genuine fear that Nhu may try this and the U.S. will be ordered to leave. Silly but true. Thing you need to discuss this also with Mike and tell him how the Ambassador should handle this or he has asked advice on it from Washington and this was the ~~coming~~ thing to do.

Another idea you might get Oggie to draft for Brent the USAM portion of the Vietnam situation and send to Bell in a letter. Possibly better. That you speak to Brent directly about it tell him I have had a chance to talk to Bell and that Bell believes we need to get rid of the Nhus. ~~But~~ Bell's letter from Brent ~~might~~ would give him a more backing. Am enclosing Times clipping which has everybody excited. Trust you ~~are~~ had nothing to do with it and are therefore well covered ??!

At last, I have learned that Sheldon has just been to Saigon and left and that he reportedly spoke to Joe Brent who disagrees with my assessment of the situation. Could you get Bell to ask Sheldon or could you. The last time I spoke to him he was full of great conviction that not only did the Nhus have to go but also the Penguins - What gives?