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Dear Bo,

We had Dorothy over to lunch today and I think it did her good to talk about her problems. I don't know what to advise you on this one - Dorothy is really in a spot. She doesn't think you're coming here would help any. About the only thing which seemed clear to me was that your mother should go to a home where ~~of~~ she could get institutional care. But how to get her to go is another problem. I wish I had some constructive suggestions to offer but the situation as Dorothy pictures it has me stumped. Anyhow we will try to keep Dorothy's morale up and she seemed cheered by the visit.

The President's death has pretty much put the nation into a state of shock as you can imagine. I spoke to Ed over the phone. He apparently hasn't had a quiet minute from the time he retired and sounded more tired than ever. I haven't given him your letter yet

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but never" do so tomorrow.

The day after.

The idea of Val coming out to set up a secret service for Big Minh was something I had had way back in mind while in Saigon but it really hit me on the way home after I got the news about Kennedy. I called Val and he says he isn't doing anything but lecturing and would love to come. He is a U.S. citizen now and has applied for a reserve commission but it hasn't come through yet. He knows Lodge (they were in the same reserve ~~art~~ cavalry course at Fort Riley in 1959) and he met him again at the UN in 1955 when he went there with Romulo. Val is sure Lodge will remember him because they had a long chat at the UN. I called Dick Helms, DD/P and suggested that Big Minh needed protection and that Val was the man for the job. He said ~~the~~ it was an interesting idea & he would query Saigon as to the status of Big Minh's security. He said he didn't know if Val would be acceptable or not (not a negative, just a blank reaction).

Because of the prior objections
raised by Richardson this
may take a strong push.
Getting Sledge into the act
may be required. I assume
that you can handle Dave
on this one - stressing that
we'll give him all the credit
but we'll prepare the way with
him just to make sure that
it doesn't get rejected. In
fact I hope I set it up so
he can come back and say
he (Dave) has been doing a
lot of thinking about making
sure we don't lose Big Muth
by pushing him out into the
population and, the solution
is - - - - -!

General Kim knows & respects
Val (although he may not be aware
of his SS advisor role or of Sea
Lion) and Muth also knows
him.

One other thought for Lodge
which I mentioned to Dumas
but I don't know if he
did anything about it. There
is a guy new on State's
payroll & slated to be
assigned as moving attache to
the Embassy at Bangkok, named

Richard Ford. Ford is a ^{1st} ^{lieut} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{US} ^{Mar} ^{and} ^{is} ^{the} ^{best} ^{person} ^I ^{know} ^{personally} ^{to} ^{all} ^{the} ^{Vietnamese} ^{Buddhist} ^{leaders}. I know him and consider him trustworthy and a good operator. He volunteered in the past to come out & set up some Buddhist Militia but I could never get him to get interested. Sledge knows Ford & has spoken to him here. I suggest Sledge put in a urgent request for him TDY to keep tabs on the Buddhists & squeeze out any communist-neutralist influence there.

You've probably got enough to worry about without additional ideas but I think the Reg think the thing has a lot of possibilities. Let me know how things are going & regards to Bert & all the gang,

P.S. Barbara sends her love. 
Baby imminent but not yet arrived