

Date Nov - 2

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Bo,

Please pass the enclosed to Mike after reading. Your last letter depresses me also.

If you can't get him at the GHQ, I suggest you call him at 21.432 at home ~~at~~ between 0630 & 0700 in the morning. His military no. at home is 30292, I believe.

On Ben, can we get MACV into the act in any way.

Security is bound to go to hell in the Cap St. Jacques area. He might be willing to pound on fat boy.

On Father Hoa, Prime Minister Tho made a funny ^(strong) remark when I saw him about Father's being engaged in the fishing business in a big way and displaying his troops in a semi-circle around the sea gate area to protect his fishing activities. This sounded so absurd that I only looked skeptical. You might try to find out what Father's problems are - if they are serious I suggest you make an appointment & see Big Nick through his aide, Capt Hai at 25275.

no date

Use my name liberally ~~as~~ ~~equally~~ if
necessary.

I'm very sorry to hear about
Bert - That's a blow. I feel pretty
helpless here - I guess the
only thing is to pound on Mike
about Ed. Don't know what
else to do short of self-
immolation.

All the best
Ridge

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Dear Bo,

I thought you would find the enclosed interesting and pertinent. I'd be interested in hearing Mike's reaction to my letter to him and to my letter to the Ambassador. If HCL only would realize that he was the Administration by the balls.

Back here, the show factory is yabbing about political action. I have not been able to see any of their recommendations yet but I imagine it is crap. You might reiterate to Mike an idea which I put to him which was - have the Ambassador request that Fat boy furnish him with all political action project papers and think-pieces written to date for his personal review, re-write as necessary and approve. If Mike could perform the review for the Ambassador then you might be able to provide the Amb with a comprehensive plan through Mike. This would at least provide his little fatness with some orientation.

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I would think this would be a natural for Fodge because he thinks of himself as the only knowledgeable politician in the place. Who else then could or should be allowed to develop political action, plans & certainly not his little ^{supercargo} fatness all by his lonesome.

With MacNamara going out again, God knows what will come out of that. I hope that him & Mink can somehow be induced to ask for a private meeting with Mac alone and then lay their cards on the table concerning what changes they feel they have to make in the Army. The Defense position back here is that they have nothing new to recommend - what is needed is just better execution of what has already been recommended. The glitter of Mac's 3 stars is enough to make one puke.

Best regards,

I'm having lunch with Mark
Fuss tomorrow

P.S. Just got a letter from Ralph B. who wants to get out of the office temporarily & go to Sen's region. Suggest you discuss with Sen - I'd prefer to see Culley go there.