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Dear Bo,

The attached is pretty disappointing in the light of what has been done back here. Is Mike giving me the run around. He must have seen my memo and Bill Jordons before writing this. If there has been any action by Lodge subsequent to Nov. it is not known in the White House back here because I have checked. If Lodge has been discussing the mouster with McNamara or Malone then he's been talking to the wrong guys. He doesn't come under them and if he come out it would be under State's auspices. I think we have Harriman pretty well softened up on this with Luigi applying the coup de grace.

Let me know if a letter from me to the Ambassador or to Mike in answer to this last one would do any good and what I ought to say in it.

State is crawling up another message urging Lodge to have another try at the "brain trust" idea - This one generated by Luigi through Harriman. The White House's answer to Lodge's request for Larry O'Brien as a political organizer is to propose

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Somebody with an Italian name (Caputo - sic?) who organized the campaign in Mass. for Kennedy which defeated Lodge. The Larry O'Brien gambit was taken as a Republican ploy to get O'Brien out of action during the Presidential campaign.

Got all the copies of The Saigon Post and they look good. I could be wrong but noting various notes Ben Dren now playing, he would seem the best channel for feeding in practical political ideas per the notes in my letter to him which were for needling purposes mainly.

Received your check for \$1805 & some cuts ~~to~~ via Margaret and will deposit today and reimburse Dorothy. Many thanks.

Just had another liver test but no results available yet. Will advise. Tell Len & Bent that Stoney and I are trying to arrange across the board promotion for RA field personnel on basis hazardous duty, among other considerations.

All the best,

Reg