

5 Feb 64

Dear Bo,

Got your letter of The night before The coup and am saving it for immortality. I trust The coup ~~in the~~ made at least a dent in The cabbage's armor of self-assurance.

I've been maneuvering back here to make a temporary trip out there at The request of The house on Pennsylvania to size up The situation and see if The Cabbage can be persuaded that he needs help. It's slow moving - They want to see who I might have offended in The past. The "Brute" is now in The Sandwich Isles, thank God.

In The meantime, I wanted to pass on to you what is known here from Viet & other sources about who is close to Khanh. Two main names are Vo Van Hai and Nguyen Van Bui. Suggest you contact The former ASAP if he hasn't already come to you. His home phone no. is 20734. Vinh (my former driver) knows where he lives. Hai might be able to give Khanh the tie-in he needs with people like Bui Diem. For The time being, our friend ~~the very~~ Bui is probably the outside man at The

Coup

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should work but will have a great deal of influence. The guy on our side closest to the younger officers is probably Stu Methuen - wouldn't be surprised if Lt. Col Chan comes back in the picture.

Word here about Udonk relationship with Tuyen is conflicting, however, weight of evidence is that he doesn't like him. On the other hand Gen Whiteman is very much Tuyen man, Hai and Boo, of course, very much against and Tuyen is death to nationalist parties as you know.

This may be too late but Hoan as Premier likely sudden death. Trust cabbage is on the right side on this one although none of the traffic here indicates he knows anything about anything.

Don't understand how pouch could have been opened as ~~it~~ outside envelope was addressed to Margaret with inside envelope addressed to you. Sorry, thought that would work and felt paper was too hot to send in mail.

Will let you know of any travel plans.

Rufe

P.S. But in his personnel letter to me ^{says he} believes ~~that~~ assistant positions in ^{critical} provinces ought be better filled by Third Nationals - I heartily concur. It looks to me as if we are going to be so overstaffed with Americans as to become very clumsy and possibly counterproductive. Fear we may be falling into MacNamara mistake of trying to substitute American advisors for Vietnamese leadership.

Filipinos would be much more flexible and invisible.