

Just received yours of 9 & 13 Feb. Am enclosing one to Mike which deliver only it it strikes the right note. He ought to know better than to try to tell us that on that effort in itself is going to win. Hope you kept a copy of my previous letter to Mike as I don't really remember what I said about your plan on that note.

17 Feb 64
1310 Ridge Rd
McLean, Va

Dear Bo,

~~Assume you are aware of the enclosed from "friend" Mike. Do not like to Monday morning quarterback but would have written to Lodge direct if I had wanted him to see it. But, perhaps you were right. Now, the only tactic seems to be to fall back, re-group and try another tactic.~~

Following are developments here. Mike Forrestal wrote Lodge about 3 wks ago ~~was~~ suggesting I might come out for a brief period to help him out.

The only answer has been dead silence. I had a long chat with Mike^F on 14 Feb. McNamara is going out shortly for one main purpose - to convince Lodge he needs help and should take it in the form of another Minister Counselor appointment to oversee and coordinate (i.e. run the operations directorate) the pacification campaign. Mike F. has apparently sold this idea in Washington. An effort will be to persuade Lodge. If

~~not successful I gather it will be crammed down his throat. Mike F.~~
(No indication as to who might fill this post but no support)

advises me not to go out on a permanent basis until the right setup is established - feels it would be useless. He still, however, wants me to go out for a brief period and will raise ^{this early next week} ~~it~~ to newly formed Vietnam working group here headed by Bill Sullivan out of Horvath's

For Ed from Mike F.

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P.S. I HCL may feel that I have had a hand in
the continuous push for the brain trust from
Washington ~~so~~ ~~that~~ ~~my~~ ~~efforts~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~limited~~ ~~to~~ ~~try~~ ~~to~~ ~~put~~ ~~it~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~right~~ ~~framework~~ ~~to~~ ~~formulate~~ ~~it~~ ~~all~~ ~~one~~ ~~the~~ ~~real~~ ~~pushers~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~case~~ ~~of~~ ~~HCL~~
feels inclined to look for a lesser scape goat.