19 October 1965
Saigon

Dear Rufe -

Again, thanks from us all for being such a staunch yeoman in backing the team in Washington. I'm circulating your letter, and just hope some of the gang thinks to let you know their own feelings, as they've expressed them to me.

If you're now reading our messages, in between staving off bankruptcy of your firm, you will have learned that Lodge has given us a new name: the Senior Liaison Office (or, SLO). We celebrated with a fiesta at Cong Ly, including Lodge, young Pete Tomoff (his aide, who asked if he couldn't be the junior liaison office), and Henry Kissinger who had just arrived. I wrote the words of a team song, to which Bernie composed some music. Team singing on a tape made by Hauk shows mostly that the team a). Shouldn't try to sing, or b). Should stop drinking. I sent the words to Helen, and you might practice up in that sunken bath-tub of yours some time.

If you're wondering about my messages on local currency and the troika sign-off, let me clue you. I know that Bo is furious with me, but I don't want you to be also. When a message came in Sunday afternoon slugged to me for immediate response - and stressing the

This photocopy may not be further reproduced or distributed without the specific authorization of the Hoover Institution Archives.
HOOVER INSTITUTION ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE Stanford, California 94305-6010
NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (TITLE 17, U.S. CODE)

lead to know GVN reactions. I went over and saw Lodge - who was discussing this with Porter. Lodge made a comment about he being the Ambassador, so I decided it wise to Lip-Joe. This came just after Sam Wilson and Mark Huss had handed me a "talking paper" some 10 minutes before I met with some top GVN folks (CO and Thang) on Rural Construction affairs at the Administrative Meeting of all Province Chiefs. I balked at using the paper until I'd discussed with Lodge how best to introduce the troika concept again to the GVN. The thing was, the lads hadn't given me a clue that they were going to ask me to do this, until they gave me a dittoed paper at the MLG meeting. And, dammit, I cannot help but become deeply suspicious of the motives of a group, including Bo, who have been increasingly secretive about what they are up to. Add to this Charlie Mann's unknown-to-me attitude towards the whole old Rural Affairs concept - I doubt that the Germanic inclinations of Charlie, which is to run his own big show himself, really fit in with the ideas some of his staff have. But, the main thing is that I'm simply not thoroughly enough grounded in all the ins and outs to gamble most of our blue chips on one fling, when I don't really know the rules of the game.

This photocopy may not be further reproduced or distributed without the specific authorization of the Hoover Institution Archives.

HOOVER INSTITUTION
ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE
Stanford, California 94305-6010

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (TITLE 17, U.S. CODE)

So, on this particular battle for a dream that was, I'll help as I can - but I'm far from sure that winning or losing Vietnam is the actual stake. I'd probably feel far differently if you were the one, with your understanding and your leadership, running Rural Affairs again. But, the show is a far cry from that. All of these guys - Sam, Bo, Mann, etc - show too much Napoleonic strain to make me feel certain of them.

Meanwhile, I am quite taken with Gen. Thang who has replaced Ung in Rural Constr. Bo and Mark Hunt have warned me strongly that he is just saying things to impress me (about winning over the people rather than just control with police, about holding hamlet elections, then village ones, etc, about getting a whole new spirit in the military about protecting the people). Yet, Thang talks the same way privately with Province Chiefs, in meetings with only GVN officials present - and is fighting to get Col Chau up from Kien Hoa to be his other deputy along with Col Lac. He keeps looking better to me all the Time.

Regards,

Ed Lansdale

This photocopy may not be further reproduced or distributed without the specific authorization of the Hoover Institution Archives.

HOOVER INSTITUTION
ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE
Stanford, California 94305-6010

NOTICE: THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW (TITLE 17, U.S. CODE)