

Rufus C. Phillips III
1453 McLean Mews Court
McLean, VA 22101-3800
rcp3rd@cox.net

818-888-5351

Col. Tran Ngoc Chau
6514 Jumilla Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91637

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Dear Chau,

I apologize for not returning your call sooner and trust that you and your family are well. I have been away for a while. Since coming back I was able to get a researcher to obtain some documents for me from the Lansdale collection at the Hoover Library in Pasadena. There are two memos from 1965, copies of which I enclose, which I thought would be of interest to you. I have some questions I would like to ask you in reference to our meeting in September 1965 in Kien Hoa. Also I have a few other questions I wanted to ask and trust you will be able to help me. I thought the best way to go about this was to send you the questions and then give you a call after you have had a chance to look at and consider them.

First in regard to our meeting in 1965 in Kien Hoa I have two questions to ask concerning matters of some sensitivity which did not show up in these memos. One was it seems to me that you had already had your disappointing meeting with Westmoreland which you relate in your part of *Prelude to Tragedy* and that you told me about it when I saw you in Kien Hoa. Is that correct? The other is about a more personal and sensitive conversation we had which I never wrote down. It has remained in my mind, however, until now. Perhaps because it reminded me of my last meeting with President Diem. I enclose on a separate sheet of paper my memory of that part of our conversation to see if you think it is reasonably accurate.

Remembering talking about Diem but not the details)

Another question concerns the conversation you had with President Diem, which you relate in *Prelude to Tragedy* in which the President asked you what you thought about sending Nhu out of the country. I would like to quote you on that in my own book if you have no objections.

Another question is what did you think of General Thang and his work as head of Rural Construction? He certainly listened to Lansdale but how much was that reflected in his actions? Our old friend, Hoang Van Lac, seems to have disliked him intensely for reasons I am not aware of. I do believe he did an honest job on organizing the constituent assembly elections in 1966 as I was there and was able to observe him first hand. My last question is was I able to introduce you personally to Lansdale before I left in 1965 or did you meet him later through Vann?

YCS

Well that's about it. With all best wishes to you and your family, as always. I will call you towards the middle of next week.

Sincerely,

1879903 Mike Tracy
Chair Appraise

Two priorities to decide the outcome -

1. What going on left's eight
2. Who did that
3. What can go to the to keep

- - - Need to know problem & progress - - -

- Thang - Personal appraisal - Based
suggested Chair to take w/ Cedar
progress - Know Thang in Creel VN
when he was a batting commander -

Chair didn't like Ky - He didn't know
anything about what was going on at
grass roots level - good organization -

- supervising complex - flexible numbers -

~~Chair~~ - CIA group w/ cache (PAT team)

- John Vann - talked w/ Eisberg -

"Not been to work as a CIA Agent, but
as a general. (Ky as a friend)

Thang good ~~after~~ in military command - not a leader

Didn't know how to talk to cadres -

~~was very~~ good at giving orders, "Excellent
officer & honest." - he told Who. No mitigate
complex not being able to listen