



65th Ridge St.
Melcan, Va
17 Feb '66

Dear Ed,

Congratulations on Honolulu. It
looks like the start of a common
political base at long last. I hope
that other decisions will be forth-
coming about better coordination
locally.

I was down in Chile for almost
three weeks, one week flat on my
back with the flu. Didn't accom-
plish much except get the
Chilean bureaucrats mad at me.
They're even worse than the Ameri-
cans.

Amelie Cecillon, Nguyen Van Buu's
sister-in-law, has been staying
with us. She came to hire
a lawyer to attempt to get
Buu out of jail. Bernie introduced
her to Jim Gleason but it didn't
take. She prefers another lawyer
named Jim Patton, a young guy
who's set up his own firm and
has been doing quite well. Everybody
thinks highly of him. I met
him and was favorably impressed.
He was in Saigon working for the
Agency from '52 to March '54. Seems
to be an admirer of yours. Was
with Covington & Burling who think
very highly of him. His ideas of



how to proceed, is cautiously, playing it by ear, correspond with mine. He would like your advice. Two of his partners, Cook and another guy whose name I forget, worked for Lodge at the UN and are apparently on good terms with him. Patton's idea is to put together a good preliminary legal brief back here and come out there around the end of March. He ~~was~~ proposes to feel out the situation before acting but plans to buttress ~~the~~ all his actions with a good, sound, well-documented case. If handled right I feel that this might be helpful in straightening out the system of justice out there somewhat. It would at least provide my ~~with~~ an excuse to the Buddhists for letting Bru go.

Bernie is disappointed that Amelie didn't select Gleason but she didn't like him. It was a toss-up in my mind with Patton having more legal and local know-how.

I'd like to get your thoughts on this. Amelie is determined to get Bru out of jail and is proceeding ethically and legally and Patton is not the type to upset apple carts. How do you think he ought to proceed? Bernie wants me to ask you whether you think Amelie should take Patton or Gleason - or anybody. I can probably call it off if



you feel strongly against it but
I don't feel I should deny Ben's
family some recourse to justice
and they have certainly tried locally.
(After solemnly promising me that
he would at least talk to Amelie,
Bei Diein refused to see her after
I let ~~it~~ ^{her} go. And he knows her personally).

On other matters, Bernie
is pushing his new Theory and the
idea that the team ought to
come back here for direct negotiations
with Moscow, Hanoi, Peking, etc. I
assume you are aware of this.

Bernie seems to feel that he has
at least your tacit acceptance to
explore the idea back here. To me
it seems wildly unrealistic and
unlikely, and I have some mis-
givings that too active an
exploration of this idea back
here might be harmful. Bernie
apparently feels that it's hopeless
out there unless they ~~put~~ ^{you} give
you a completely free hand.

I hope that team morale is
again high and that there is more
opportunity for everybody to contribute
without the continuous flac. I got
your note enclosing Dove Hudson's
paper on Ben's Drink and Throught



it was accurate. The RF & PE
must be reformed. Maybe by picking
an experimental area and getting
Westmoreland's agreement to try out
a new approach there, something
could be proven. Col Chan would have
some good ideas on that.

I've been receiving a number
of letters from Bert^F, which I've been
reluctant to answer - I get the
impression that he's being left out
in part because of a negative
attitude and too much talk of how it
was done in the past. Can Mike or
anybody help him to get out of this
rut. He's (Bert) is best with
the young people - IVS & students.

As for myself, the firm has at
last been purged of the deadwood who
also turned out to be troublesome.
Unfortunately, we are in pretty bad financial
straits as the Saudi Arabian jobs hit
a snag and they're our main source
of income. The next two months - through
the middle of April - should decide
the issue so I should be able to
get out to VN by the end of
April - either temporarily or as a ~~bankrupt~~ bankrupt
ex-businessman.

In the meantime all my best
wishes to you and the team. Give
every body my best regards - God Bless -

Rege

P.S. Talked to Dean Howlett, ~~state~~ leading Unionian Minister
last night who is apparently prepared to give a
rousing sermon on why we should honor our commit-
ment to VN. This was arranged by Dove Martin.