



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Saigon, Viet Nam,
November 18, 1966.

Dear Rufe:

Warm thanks for the big envelope from you via "Sam-Baby." I'll pass the East Pakistan material along to Thang, as I did the manuscript earlier, as soon as I read these two new pieces first. Thang is off on a 40-day visit to the provinces, getting the campaign shaped up for 1967.

Speaking of 1967, I put out a memo called "Battle-ground in 1967" which you should read. Sent copies to Washington. Montague said he specifically would make sure you got to read it. It's really intended to get folks to focus on strategy. The first one I wrote, in Dalat while the Manila Conference was going on, was ripped to pieces by the team. So, I went to work and rewrote it completely. Porter's staff and MACV took to it and distributed it to the U. S. teams in the provinces. So, maybe it will influence some of the thinking here. I also mailed a personal copy to McNamara and to Bill Connell.

MacDonald told me about Owens coming for a visit and said he would like me to join him in a long bull session with the group. MacDonald is a refreshing change from Charlie Mann and seems to want to work with us in a friendly, constructive way.

Bert Fraleigh is going back to Taiwan on 20 November. For good, he says. The Chinese agricultural team is giving him a little send-off tonight, and have asked me to "speak a few words." It would be fun to talk for an hour while their soup gets cold! We also are having Bert in for a team get-together before he leaves.

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Rufus C. Phillips

- 2 -

November 18, 1966

Thang and the Chinese had a good meeting at the Cong Ly house. Thang wants one Chinese team in each province, working right in with his cadre. A good big step ahead. Colonel Lac seems to be dragging his feet, possibly because of his feelings towards Chinese, but Thang is enthusiastic. Incidentally, Leonard Chang showed photos of that farmer in Hue whom you wrote about in a memo. Built himself a fine new house and posed for the photo with his family, all dressed up in new clothes. A good finish for a good story!

With Sam and Dan back, we are almost a big team again. Lodge has asked that we give a hand to Sam Wilson, who has moved out of the Mission Coordinator spot to become the U. S. coordinator in Long An, which is again to get special treatment as a show-piece. Jake Jacobson has taken over as Mission Coordinator. Also, Westy has moved Bill Knowlton, who now has his star, to take over J-33 in the RD Ministry. I'm happy we have folks like this in such spots. Makes working relations sound and easy.

Your comment memo on the "future plans" paper was masterful and should prove of really constructive help to the U. S., if any of its readers stop running so hard long enough to do some reflective thinking. I'm passing it around in the team, to keep the old dander up. Thanks!

Love to Barbara and the youngsters. Warmest and best to you.

Regards,

Ed

Edward G. Lansdale
Assistant to the Ambassador