

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

May 31, 1966

TO: SLO-Ed Lansdale

FROM: H. C. Lodge

1. This is in reply to your paper of May 27, entitled "The SLO Role" and that of May 30, entitled "Political Coalition".
2. I very much want the U. S. to get the full benefit of the talents, experience, special relationships, and special position of your good self and your associates.
3. I hope that you and they will, to the greatest degree possible, be present, to listen, to report.
4. I hope also that you will make recommendations concerning such matters as creating "people's councils" or "forming groupings of political parties and factions so that strong national coalitions will emerge" or "influencing the growth of coalitions of political groups having popular participation, helping them grow strong enough to battle Communist political organizations.
5. Specific policies along these lines should be carried out subject to check with me, after whatever consultation it may be necessary for me to have with Washington and the GVN. As you know, there are many activities going on involving officers of the U. S. Mission, and the avoidance of confusion and of working at cross purposes makes this stipulation necessary.
6. I understand that you will keep me, the Deputy Ambassador, the Political Counselor and the Mission Coordinator informed.
7. I understand further that Colonel Karrick will maintain close daily liaison with the Political Section.