

14 Oct 1966

Saigon

Dear Rufe -

Thanks for the Edgar Owens manuscript. It hit me just as I was woodling out a 180-day program for here - and I'm reading it thoughtfully for this purpose, before passing it along. There's more than one way of striking a blow for liberty - and Owens surely will be doing so through you + me. He deserves warm thanks from everyone in the good fight! Why not get the new Freedom Center to back him? Where is he now? If he's interested, I'll write and try to pick this off. He speaks directly to the concept I wrote for the Center, and should be grabbed by them.

Re Father Dan McClellan. Your note on him came to me right at the end of the McNamara / Katzenbach / Komer visit - which turned into a wild-ass-grab sort of thing - and I didn't get enough thoughts sorted



out in time to take it up with Komer. Suggest that you do. My thought is that McClellan be picked up by AID, and assigned as a consultant to Gen. Thang, to spark farm credit unions along with Rev. Development. Thang is now a Super. Minister, has Ministry of Agriculture under his wing, and is a guy we can help directly, as you know. I've sent a memo to Lodge, Porter, Mac Donald, etc., suggesting this, and urging they take it up with Washington. If you can crank up Washington (Komer, Poats, or Stoney), and get them to take some initiative, I believe we can make it go. I'm dubious about AFL/CIO and Bure/CVT - with so many US bureaucrats having a finger in it, but it is a good fall-back position.

Check with Dan Ellsberg on the McNamara visit. A bit disastrous for the Porter position on pacification. SLO, even sitting on the sidelines by order, came out smelling like roses. Apparently, in private talks, Westy





Praised our work highly, said some
warm things about me personally.
Both McNamara and Buzz Wheeler
commented on this to me. Lodge &
Habib were most upset by Dan's
appearance with the party. (It caught
me by complete surprise). Katzenbach
got an earful from SVN topside
about me. I overheard a little of it.
They used a pretty big shovel to
toss it out. But, the Vietnamese have
proved to be the staunchest scrappers
in our corner. Even Tran van Do went
overboard in a private talk with K.

The Newsweek item saying I was
"bed up" with pacification hurt the
Vietnamese, since it was picked up
in the local press about the time Radio
Hanoi was coming out with some new
stuff about what a heel I am. I wrote
Thang a letter, praising the work,
and he translated it and is sending it
to Province Chiefs, cadre, etc. I suspect
Lodge or Habib leaked the item to
Newsweek. Great fun.

Love to Barbara + family. - Ed