



10 Feb '67

Dear Ed,

A brief note about Ted Owen's proposal. As you probably know it was endorsed by MacDonald back here. It was then supposed to go out to Saigon as a recommendation for action from Homer to Porter.

Ted has had an uphill battle to get anything moving on this and finally got to see Holbrook today. A cable has gone out putting it on the agenda for the Homer visit. I spoke to Holbrook about it a week ago and his initial reaction was that it didn't amount to anything. Ted thinks he succeeded in arousing some interest but probably no real enthusiasm. He hopes you can build a fire under this out there. So do I, as I think it might put real life into village elections and get some badly needed changes in the present decree. Perhaps Don Ellsberg could carry the ball on this.

Somebody in Rand sent me Don's paper on the pacified hamlet, which was quite a story. I see no way of licking the problem without



The kind of enthusiasm which only genuine elections would bring - not only to the village people but to the Army as well who would feel that they had something to defend. The old Army-people reaction we used to get.

Best to the Teams. Just wanted to let you know that this is supposedly on the Homer agenda for serious treatment.

As ever,
Rufus