



28 March '67

Joe - Show to SLD
team, please - Ed

Dear Ed,

I just talked to Bill Jordan. He stayed with Bunker after Guam on the flight back and had the occasion to brief him in detail on the general situation and on your role in Saigon. Bunker was very positive about wanting you to stay on. Bill says that Bunker is a very different type from Lodge and his feeling is that you will work well together. He finds Bunker patient, considerate and understanding. He hopes (in his own words) that now that your second biggest cross has already left and your biggest one is leaving that you will be able to get a new breath and not have to spend time worrying so much about who's knifing you on the U.S. side but will feel free to go ahead and do what you feel needs doing. He feels that Bunker will be willing to back you up.

He also said that ^{B. J.} Montague was present during much of his talk with Bunker and that Montague volunteered favorable comments about ~~what~~ your accomplishments. I can't evaluate Montague, although I just got through having



a general talk with he and Holbrooke
in Homer's office. He's coming out
with Homer and Holbrooke is staying
behind which is good. Some body's
been making snide remarks on your
memos as they are passed to Homer
and I've pretty well narrowed
this down to Holbrooke.

The VP, Connell, et al took
off for Europe and won't be back
until next week. Vorden's feeling
is that Bunker is in a favorable
state of mind and shouldn't be pushed
further to which I'm inclined to agree.
Will nevertheless follow-through on
the enclosed memo as am sure that
the VP will see Bunker before he goes.
Bill Vorden will try to get out around
the time of Bunker's arrival but an-
ticipates some problems because Roston
will be ^{away} with LBJ, at the Latin
American Presidents Meeting.

As Sam has undoubtedly already
written, Bui Diem followed up on
Thong's cable and was reassured by Vorden.
Bui Diem says he would have taken it
up with LBJ if he had had any
inkling that there was any question about
your staying on - He said to him (Bui
Diem) before Guam "what can we do
for our friend".



In sum, Ed, I believe the whole incident shows that what you have done there is more appreciated by the Vietnamese, and even by the Americans, than you had realized. At least it seems that way to me.

On another subject, there is a possibility that I could get out there at the end of April, or in early June, to help out a bit. Which would be preferable.

I got the tapes - many thanks. Suggest you might send one to George Tanham, as he is now president of The American Friends.

Best regards to all of the gang.

Reife