

Sargon

April 29, 1968

Dear Rufe,

Apologies for not writing sooner: I am as worn out physically as I've ever been, my state of mind is not a happy one and am trying to help wind the show up ^{in a useful way to Uncle and} with some dignity.

Re you and EB, the situation, as best I can determine, is as follows: EB was nervous about you to the point of saying virtually, no. Why, I have no idea. The relationship between EB and ELL has not been at all close since the latter's return, and ELL has not really tried to make it so nor to move in on one and two. Perhaps he felt it was impossible and perhaps he was right. I'm really not sure, and at this point I really don't give a damn. When ELL got Barker's response he tried to call you but couldn't reach you and thus relayed the message thru Sam.

ELL will be leaving sometime in June and the office will be eliminated. Cal will return to the US and State, Charlie Sweet's plans are uncertain but perhaps he'll stay on (he's a very solid if understandably as yet not ^{bureaucracy} ~~uncommitted~~ battle-hardened citizen), and I have no definite plans. ELL plans to spend a year at the University of Hawaii writing. As best I can read between the lines, the driving force now is to withdraw from everything, sermonize and dwell on the good old days. Yet when forced into action by events, he remains a superb operator, far better than anyone else around in terms of knowing how to deal with Vietnamese leaders. I can understand at least some of the reasons for this ^{with drawn} but it still hurts like hell and makes life rather unpleasant and difficult. I don't really see the influence of anyone changing this; he has to come to peace with himself and this is almost entirely up to him. The one exception might be a personal assignment, with authority, from the President, but I'm not even sure he would really want this, even if possible.

I hope things back there have improved for you, of course, all of the above is for your information only. Perhaps I shouldn't have said this, and perhaps I'm quite wrong. Best regards, always,
Dove