

February 3rd 1967.

Dear Rufus,

I did not call you back yesterday night as I came home rather late. Also I think I better put down in paper certain things to make it clear to you.

10. You know as well as I do, that the war in my country is no more the same you, me and Ed and others have had in mind. We also know that soon or late, may be very soon, there will be negotiations. To me the only way to negotiate is among the Vietnamese. <sup>side</sup> On the non-Vietcong, it is the elected government of South Vietnam. After the negotiations, in my judgment, only the austerity and the integrity of the true Buddhist leaders in cooperation with true leaders of other faiths could establish a clean climate for the patriotic Vietnamese to struggle politically and culturally with the Communists. The real battle begins when the shooting war ends. Although this country has treated me well, I must go home and serve my people, in any capacity and in austerity. I do not want to run away from my country and my people and I must find by myself, if necessary my own position and my own place. This is the reason which motivates me, at the time when many believe that Buddhism is dead in Vietnam, to accept to be the Representative of the Vietnamese Overseas Buddhist Association in the US and Canada. From now on, all my activities are directed to the aims of the Association to which I am responsible.

20. You can therefore understand my position vis a vis General Ky. It is true that there is no communication between General Ky and the Buddhists who were suppressed. You should read letters I receive

from home to know the real situation. If you doubt, you can check with Ted Britton or General Thi. I did not say that General Ky is the assassin but he cannot say that he is not responsible for the death of an elected member of the Vietnamese parliament. The public in this case is the judge. You remember, in the old days, nobody had evidence that President Diem was corrupted, but he was held responsible by the people of the corruption in his regime. (You can read Carl Rowan column in the Star on February 1, 1967)

3. You find enclosed a better report of my speech at Darmouth than the one in The Post. What I said was General Ky's government must be responsible for Tran Van Van death and must above all answer his wife and his children (now in Paris). I did not speak as a representative of the Saigon Post and the <sup>Wash</sup> Post connection of the Pos <sup>Saigon</sup> with myself and Bui Diem was the Post own making. I realize the difficulty of Bui Diem's position. He is paid to do a job and he must do it. I have nothing against him although all (I say all) my friends blame me for having known him.

4. When this war is over, the bad Vietnamese will fade away. The good Vietnamese will continue the battle and so are the good Americans like you. Vietnam will be there and needless for me to say to you that a man's fight for freedom (in the truest sense) is an eternal fight.

With best wishes, I remain,

Your sincere friend,

*Tran Van Dinh*

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