

rcp3rd

written after 15 Apr. '01

3 WKS *Leave*
27 Nov - 27 Dec Home
1 Feb back to
vn Saigon

From: "Bert Fraleigh" <bfraleigh@olypen.com>
To: "rcp3rd" <rcp3rd@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 5:40 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting Humphrey

On Mar 14, 2006, at 3:51 PM, rcp3rd wrote:

Bert,

Further to my previous e-mail didn't you originally meet Humphrey through a guy name Herb Waters or something like that who had run "Food for Peace". Can you give me the circumstances of how you originally met Humphrey and then who arranged for you to see him when you came Washington in Feb. 1964.

Rufe

Dear Rufe:

I'll try to reconstruct what happened during the period from Nov. '63 to March '64 though my records may be hard to find.

First, a few days after my return from the Honolulu Conference to Saigon, about Nov 24 (and Kennedy's Assassination), I

came down with hepatitis and was hospitalized in Saigon for four weeks. Len Maynard replaced me. Incidentally, he is a severe Alzheimers case in New Delhi where his new wife is the UNDP Rep. On recovery I took Home Leave and arrived in the US in Feb.

When working in Taiwan in 1959 I developed a reputation as being an expert on Chinese Refugee Resettlement and skilled user of Food For Peace and was given Regional responsibilities in including HonkgKong and Macau; all activities \

dear to the heart of Senator HHH. He sent an inspection team to Taiwan and they were very impressed. They asked me to give them frequent written reports on my work and political observations which I did. They also asked me to call them when I got to DC so I could meet with the senator. This I did in 1960 and found him most affable and interested. He asked me to write him often and personally and to be his eyes in the China?HongKong region. Meanwhile, his former AD. Asst Herb Waters had been appointed Head of Food for Peace, an Asst. Secretary of State job, and was an extremely extroverted, friendly guy and completely supportive of me. I continued to send occasional letters to HHH from Vietnam.

When I got to LA enroute to DC on home leave in February 64 there was a telegram at my brother's house asking me to proceed immediately (36 hours) to DC for a meeting at the VP's Office two afternoons out. On arrival in DC I called the VP's

Office and Bill Connell answered and said he would be awaiting my taxi in front of the Executive Office Building in 20 minutes, around 1:30 PM. He was there and took me immediately to HHH's Office. I expected a 20 or 30 minute session. The VP

said he wanted me to give him observations and suggestions on VN. I started talking with him questioning frequently. About four o'clock he excused himself for an hour and went to the gym for his usual workout. He told Connell that we should continue at 5 o'clock and asked him to have Sens. Sparkman and Fullbright join us. At 5 PM we resumed with sandwiches brought in.

By 6PM Sparkman fell asleep but Fullbright was as interested as HHH and as incisive. It was then he mentioned his thesis of the "arrogance of power" About 9 PM HHH said: How can we get Lynden to hear this. He said Connell should draft a summary they could edit and pass to Lynden. He added that he feared it wouldn't do much good but it had to be done. All thanked me and HHH asked me to keep in close touch.

Meanwhile, AID/W had injected Tanham and Sam Wilson into USOM/VN and when I returned to VN Tanham had taken my job but was soon removed by Killen. I was next and forced to leave on 24Hrs Notice abandoning Jean behind. Even before I got to DC there were orders to the aircraft for me to proceed directly to the VP's Office which I did. Arriving there the VP said: "Don't tell us about Killen; we know all about him' That will be solved shortly". He then asked for an update on the general situation and what I thought we (the US) should do about it? It's then that I suggested we have a meeting with you and Bo and mentioned Ed Lansdale who was known well to Waters and others in Food for Peace. The VP then set up an early meeting. You can take it from there.

I was also a close friend of Justice Douglass and spent 6 hours going over VN with him. He said Lynden has to hear you and I'll arrange that for next week. (About a month after arrival in DC after Killen's force out). About a week later Justice Douglass invited me to dinner and apologized saying Lynden's schedule was too tight for a meeting inferring as did HHH that it was very hard to influence Lynden.

Hope you can take this from here. Let me have any comments/questions!

Bert

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rcp3rd

From: "Bert Fraleigh" <bfraleigh@olypen.com>
To: "rcp3rd" <rcp3rd@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2006 12:41 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting Humphrey

On Mar 16, 2006, at 7:17 AM, rcp3rd wrote:

them when I got to DC so I could meet with the senator. This I did in 1960 and found him most affable and interested.

Dear Rufe:

You have clarified the situation. When I was on Home Leave from Feb 64 I spent about two months in Washington and saw Humphrey several times. From the beginning I told him in detail about you and Ed and he asked me to come in with Ed and we did go in one afternoon. You were out of town. HHH was a very open, unpretentious person who was a great listener and never seemed to be rushed. He was a giant American! He once told us..Yes, I am the VP but it doesn't mean much; I really don't have much power so don't expect miracles. But I'll try my best. If you only could understand weak my influence is!"

Bert