Saigon, 6 August 1960


16 pages

CRYPTOME COLLECTION
Dear Nick —

If you have already sent me a letter denouncing me as a no-good, ungrateful and illiterate wretch, don't try to stop it — I richly deserve it, and hang my head in shame. All I can say in defense is that I have had to run like blazes to keep up with the vehicle you set in motion and wonder where you even found time to say 'Hells in the morning'. We have already
heard through the grapevine that you are putting the boys there on the same schedule and are achieving results. It will do them good even though it is probably quite a change. I'll try to give you an outline of how things are going. The VC are still hard at it and are having considerable effect. During the last couple of weeks they seem to have moved north to some extent, and are now quite active in Zone D and along highways 13 and 14.
So far no Americans hit, but some French have had trouble and the plantations are quite worried. The Viet forces seem to be reacting quite well to the extent they can. Col Khanh has been promoted to B.G. for his good work in the IV Region, where he has kept the boys on the offensive whenever he can find the enemy. The Pres is also keeping the heat on and pushing for new ideas—the Civ 67, the youth and so forth are being shoved at
a great rate. And the appropriations
are beginning to be completed,
and seem to be a success
despite the problems their
hasty erection caused. There
still isn’t much of a demagogue
about him, but he is trying
to be folksy and has even
said he is going to do some
fireside chatting (he has, on
one or two occasions). Latest
big wrinkle, on which
we are working hard now,
is a decision to have an
NSC and even (believe it or
not) a centralized you-
know-what.
Our relations continue along well. I see the rich one, and told him laughingly about your wedding party and we are trying to get going on a project to send some hunting teams into the bad areas to search the VC's out. Our candy stick is a bit in the dumps as he has been hit pretty hard recently on a number of fronts by ourselves and his own compatriots (the smooths seem his only friends) and you know how much they'll give.
"The mouke" will be stopping to see you soon, and you can hear how we are getting along with the teams I mentioned above, as well as angel (the next step) and old alone — which continues and is about to become water-borne. Maybe you can unravel things with him — he got away here before your latest on that got here. Tiffy is proving to be anything but, as a result of the red tape and slowness of our own folks at home, but I think progress is
coming, if not here yet.

And, as important as anything, our upstairs boys are still pounding it out and giving us lots of side and inside views. I am seeing Fountain regularly, although he is just as vague as ever, and I also am developing what I can with Hawk.

Your friend the not is a tough one but I'm trying within the limits of having both our heads chopped off. Good luck with
his brother.

Personnel is still the real cross to bear. Old cob is just now getting a full staff and beginning to thicken again, while job is bare and floundering. It seems we can replace anyone with plenty of overlap, except for the comparatively unimportant categories of supervisors and C.O.'s. We get in a problem now and again of wondering who we can use just to hold a few hands for a while, not even push something or develop. But why complain to you? You
know the problem all too well. Ed B. is working out well and even on occasion not bursting into your old office with his major problem of the moment. Cobie has gone, and is due today in Wash for exam by the medics; I hope to high heaven they fix him up without too much of a problem. All the Greeks are not gone yet, though, as Candy is still with us (until you can work a fast op. to get him with you) and my new secretary is a Miss Kostakis whom I think
your brother Tim knows she looks good, and will keep the right tradition alive here. Kelly left for the silvery shores of Hawaii and the eternal hope of finding that 9 slot-I hope she does—Jones went off to the desk, well filled with explicit instructions to kidnap personnel anywhere he can find them. Peter went off in the normal roar and confusion filled with plans how he would steal all our good people and unload all the weak ones! And we got a card from J. J. Sherry from a Swiss mountain side.
in route to the flat lands of Foggy Bottom. Floyd P. just left with a tremendous send-off from all types and hopes to land on the Rock - which you will see the other man write in a flood of tears and a sweat-soaked shirt. He put off postponed his own leave to Nov. (Thank God, as I am terrified of the change period), after which he should return but maybe just for a bit (depending I imagine on the new Pres + Secstate's views). He still treats Francis a little worse than one of the servants at
home. The Ben goes soon, and typically declined Dumb's offer of a farewell dinner. The new one I hear is nicknamed "Splithead" as he parts his hair in the middle, and is billed as just as mean as Sam but not as intelligent — sounds fine. Arthur G. is back and very much the same, and Coster really got them the leave pretty well. And we are in the process of getting a new team of attachés, who seem OK. Only one social note — Frank Conder finally was thrown out.
Hope the housing is working out and that Betty and the girls can join you soon—here are a few photos.

I have been meaning to send you. We certainly like your house, and I hope you get one as good or almost as good if there aren’t any there as good as this one. For your sake, too, I hope the social pace is slower there and lets you concentrate a bit more than this "gay whirl." We certainly appreciate...
your brother Tim's help in letting you see the Acropolis later this month on his way home — maybe he'll see Mitya, too and give her all our regards. Give our best too to various friends there. All of course, in the lead. I hope Jerry S. is bracing for the tropical atmosphere — and I'm glad he's getting a good indoctrination into how it should be done à la Natsios before he leaves. Maybe some of it will stick with him. Also our best to Norm and family.
we're glad to see that our interests there are in such good hands. Finally, of course, Ed Ryan—I hope the division of labor has worked out and that he is showing that more than one WE hand can learn something from SE via FE—I certainly have.

Once again—my real regret is telling you how things stand here and how well the momentum you imparted has held up. And many thanks for lots of good...
lessons, good procedures
and good friendship.

Bill

Ps. Re the Snaul: It's my impression
that our boys have been too tight on
this and not handled it too well.
I really mean our boy [name] more
than the Flog Boys. The
tight wire was set before either
you or Norm really were in
residence, & now we have such
illustrious alumni in place, I
am going to try to loosen the
wire and let you do the real
running as much as the Flogs
will let us. Main point: Don't hit
the work too hard on this, as he
probably doesn't know too much about
it and will basically go along with us
if we don't give the impression that you and
we disagree. We'll set the new spice here on the lower level
tactics.