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7 September 1966

MEMO FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Lodge's 7 September Weekly Telegram

1. Nothing here you need take the time to read since he reports no new material and much of what appears herein is lifted verbatim from other traffic that has crossed my desk, and probably yours.

2. Paras 1-17 deal with the elections. Lodge says all the right, and obvious, things. He does try a hedge which I feel doesn't quite come off (paras 1 & 2) in arguing that although a respectable turnout will be an endorsement of the Ky regime, a small turnout will not be a sign of opposition to Ky but -- instead -- an indication of the efficacy of VC terror. There is some truth in this (not much, but some), but it would never sell to the Fulbright's and New York Times editorial writers of this world, and the President should stay off this wicket.

3. The cable concludes with one para (18) on desertions (down), two (19 & 20) on economics (a little cheer), two useful paras (21 & 22) comparing Americans and Vietnamese killed (they, our allies, are taking more losses than we are), and a final para (24) recounting an Indian ICC Chairman's alleged quotation from Ho (not worried by bombing but would be worried if VC infrastructure began to crumble).

George Carver

C. H. Cronin

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