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August 26, 1965

(Two years ago this week, Henry Cabot Lodge arrived in the upside-down city of Saigon as the celebrated Buddhist crisis zenithed. "The American Mandarin"--as he was soon labelled--found he had no one to ~~present his credentials~~ whom to ~~personally~~ present his Ambassadorial credentials; the Foreign Minister had resigned, shaved his head like a Buddhist monk and agitated the students for more anti-government demonstrations.

One year ago this week, ~~General Taylor~~ Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor celebrated his 63rd birthday on August 26; it wasn't a very happy one. The upside-down city was ~~again~~ ruled by student mobs which toppled momentarily ~~the~~ <sup>JAE</sup> military government.

This week, Lodge presented his second set of Ambassadorial credentials; this time, Viet Nam did have a Foreign Minister, but ~~the~~ Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky ~~he~~ evaded the Ambassador's arrival by touring other Asian countries.)



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SAIGON--The second era of Henry Cabot Lodge introduces the Third Phase of the American ~~political~~ strategy for Viet Nam, observers here believe.

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This Third Phase is not in conflict with, nor a contradiction of the strategy of ex-ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor. It is, instead, a complement to, and a completion of, the Taylor strategy.

The first phase of the Taylor strategy was the bombing of North Viet Nam; the second phase was the introduction of American combat troops on the ground. (In this phase, Taylor of 1965 reversed Taylor of 1961, when he advised against American ground troops in Asia.)



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Under Lodge, the Taylor strategy will be completed with more American ground troops within the South and further escalation in North Vietnam, not only by expanding the bombing raids to include Hanoi's industrial basis, but possibly in the future of clandestine ground operations.

The ~~1st~~ <sup>2nd</sup> Third Phase of the American strategy is to ~~formulate~~ formulate a political policy for the south Vietnamese within the south, that will ~~either~~ <sup>reverse</sup> reverse ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> sharp deterioration caused by whirlwind changes of government, and more hopefully, will seize the political ~~initiative~~ initiative from the Communists. IN the

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In short, Taylor decided to fight the anti-Communist war solely on military terms--but on two fronts, in North Viet Nam and within the South. The ~~new~~ new Lodge era is expected to continue--to expand, to escalate and to <sup>INTENSIFY</sup> ~~intensive~~ this--while ~~simultaneous~~ simultaneously fighting the Communist ~~subversiv~~ subversives politically within the South and, ~~preparing~~ preparing to overtake their "revolutionary" ~~promises~~ promises to the Vietnamese peasantry.

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The fate of South Viet Nam--barring negotiations with the North-- depends on whether this third phase of the strategy succeeds or fails.

To translate this strategy into ~~meaninful~~ meaningful terms for the Vietnamese peasants and city-dwellers depends on ~~neatly~~ ~~not~~ not solely on Lodge, but also Edwin C. ~~Lans~~ Lansdale, a retired ~~air~~ U. S. Air Force general, ~~who~~ who became ~~renowned~~ renowned in the '50's as the kingmaker behind President Ramon Magsaysay during the Huk insurrection in the Philippines and later as the initial kingmaker behind Ngo Dinh Diem during his early days as President of Vietnam in 1955.

The Lodge -Lansdale team is considered an exquisitely balanced political duo-ambassadorship. & The greatest ~~strength~~ hidden political strength of Lodge is considered by Vietnamese observers to lie first in his ~~impact~~ <sup>influence</sup> on the Republican Party within American politics and in his appreciation of the Russian mentality because of his United Nations' ~~ambassadorship~~ ambassadorship. Hence, the Vietnamese intellectuals ~~of~~ consider Lodge a key factor to keep America unified and to keep Russia neutral during the <sup>future</sup> ~~coming months or years~~.



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Internally, within South Viet Nam, Vietnamese observers consider Landsdale as the key "wheeling & dealing operator" type. Together, the Lodge-Landsdale team forms a controversial team <sup>thus</sup> in the Saigon political arena, each attracting totally ~~different~~ diverse political factions. Landsdale <sup>with</sup> ~~was~~ magnetizing the ~~Catholic~~ support of the right-wing Catholics and their related political factions, <sup>And with</sup> while Lodge attracting the pro-Buddhist elements because of his <sup>Supporting</sup> ~~aiding~~ them in their fight against Catholic President Diem in 1963.



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While American officials define this strategy as a policy of initiative, most Vietnamese observers here consider it a policy of reaction to the overwhelming and consistent Viet Cong political and military offensive conducted since the fall of President Diem, which ~~occurred two months after Lodge arrived on his first Ambassadorship.~~ occurred two months after Lodge arrived on his first Ambassadorship. <sup>CAUSE</sup> With the fall of Diem, also meant the fall the strategic hamlet program and the loss of the government control of the Vietnamese villagers, as well as the fall of an intelligence <sup>INTD</sup> channel ~~channel~~ in the countryside.

While the Lodge-Taylor-Lodge flipflop in the ~~Ambassadorship~~ Ambassadorship is ~~not~~ considered the completion of the strategic circle, the long-term tactical implementation within the South has found each key American official of one era nullifying the ~~stated~~ preceding one.



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Hence, Landsdale, ~~in the early 1950's~~ was the kingmaker behind Ngo Dinh Diem, was nullified by Lodge in 1963, when American support was withdrawn from the Catholic president. Lodge gave political ~~ass~~ asylum in an air-conditioned room in the American Embassy to Thich Tri Quang, the leader of the Buddhist anti-Diem political movement.

Lodge then suffered through an 89-day committee-type government of the first military junta, ~~then~~ <sup>And Subsequent to</sup> threw his support behind General Nguyen Khanh who coup-ed to power.

~~Then~~ <sup>FIRST</sup> first Thich Tri Quang and later Ambassador Taylor nullified Lodge, when ~~student demonstr~~ pro-Buddhist student demonstrations toppled Khanh from the President in August of last year and when Taylor disagreed with him in February of this year. Khanh left for an announced ambassadorship <sup>to which</sup> he was never appointed, ~~to~~ most Vietnamese observers ~~could~~ considered Thich Tri Quang a pro-Communist sympathizer, or pro-neutralist agent.

This week, Lodge finds the political situation similar to that of his first ~~apoint~~ appointment, with a ~~leader-less~~ <sup>leaderless</sup> committee-type government of the first military junta; students in Saigon expounding anti-government--and anti-American--theories in seminars; demonstrations of students and townspeople in the political hotbed city of Hue.

"Lodge No. 2 has come to straighten out the mess caused during the reign of Lodge No. 1," one Vietnamese intellectual explained. "He's brought Landsdale to find the new Ngo Dinh Diem."