November 18, 1955

Senator Herbert H. Lehman
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Lehman:

In my November 4th letter to you I asked if we might add your name to the American Friends of Viet Nam and to the cable of congratulations to President Diem, the text of which is as follows:

"We Americans of both parties and all sections of America, send you our heartiest congratulations on the establishment of the Republic of Viet Nam. Just as our founding fathers faced the gravest of difficulties both external and internal, and came through their time of trial to victory, we count on you to lead the great Vietnamese people through uncertain events to a pattern of peace, democracy and prosperity. So long as you continue to stand firm in the service of our common heritage of freedom, we pledge you our enthusiastic support and that of the overwhelming majority of the American people."

The purpose of this letter is to bring you up to date. Among those who have joined General William J. Donovan and myself in signing this telegram are: Warren R. Austin, James Bruce, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Gardner Cowles, James A. Farley, Frank M. Folsom, Mrs. Averell Harriman, William Randolph Hearst, Jr., Conrad Hilton, Senator John F. Kennedy, Henry R. Luce, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Whitelaw Reid.

We have decided to send the cable on November 28th to President Diem. In the event that you may wish to be included, it would be appreciated if you would let me know at this address before that date.

Sincerely yours,

Angier Biddle Duke