

Seoul, Korea  
13 May 1974

Dear Lincoln,

I finished your book this morning, and feel very much enriched and stimulated by having read it. Many thanks for thinking of our talk here in Seoul, and for sending your book to me.

At times like these, when Watergate drenches us all in deceit, and we seem so locked in to many of the concepts which you spear so delightfully, it is very important to read words and thoughts which look beyond. (Reischauer wrote his "Beyond Vietnam" right at the depths of that conflict, and admitted when he wrote it that he did not know how we would get out- only that we had to. It helped, I think.) Your book is in the same constructive vein, and comes at a very important time.

I did find much resonance in what you wrote. Your list of 20 assumptions was devastating, and recalled meetings into which I entered with the sinking feeling that none of the options judged to be "open" to us could solve what we were dealing with. I also respond to your use of the word "humane". It is a shrewd choice, not having been ruled out by current rhetoric, and not having been usurped by the extreme left. Another recent book I have read, Ernest R. May "Lessons" of the Past, makes the point to which you advert in your "decade lag" concept. May also deals very well with the dangers of the partially understood historical analogy, which has led us to apply Munich in too many places.

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Things in Korea continue on apace. Student unrest has been smothered by draconian means, and the North-South dialogue hardly deserves the name. Pak continues to rule out domestic concession as a viable tactic, and sooner or later he will shatter the anti-communist concensus which as of now continues to hold.

I think that we will be here just two years. I feel very much of an urge to get back to America well before 1976, so as to be able to observe and perhaps to participate in that bicentennial in some small way. I also want to look at my own organization to see whether it looks inward or outward, forward or back.

I hope very much we can meet again, to talk more. Again, my thanks for sending your book- I will pass it on to others, as I believe it deserves to be read.

Warm regards,  
Dan Gregg