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ALgonquin 5-8844

April 4, 1961

Dr. Wesley R. Fishel
Asian Studies Group
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Dr. Fishel:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 3rd. Since I wrote to you, the situation has changed in that we have received a number of articles on the Laotian situation from sources here and abroad. Therefore, the immediate urgency which confronted me when I wrote you my original letter, no longer exists. However, I should certainly still be interested in an article dealing with aspects of the situation in that area and your expression of interest in doing something for us after April 15th is most welcome, since the situation in Laos and the area is obviously going to continue to be sensitive.

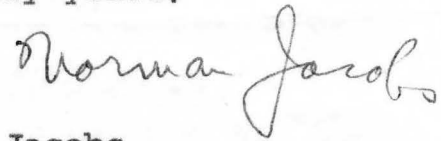
I am wondering however, how you would respond to the suggestion that in the article you do for us you put Southern Vietnam in the focus. Obviously our commitments to Vietnam are much more direct and substantial, the stakes here are even higher, if related to the stakes in Laos. It seems to me that an article dealing with the situation in Vietnam, how the Diem government is doing, how serious are Communist guerrilla efforts to soften up and overthrow Diem, the significance of the election results to be held in Vietnam - all these themes merit treatment. What do you think? Would you be interested in doing an article focusing more directly on Vietnam or an article of the size you suggest three to four thousand words in which you might treat both Laos and Vietnam, or possibly two articles.

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Forgive me for importuning you thus. The need is so great and experts so rare. In any event, I am counting upon you for a piece after April 15th and I leave it to your discretion as to which theme or themes to concentrate upon.

With many thanks, I am

Sincerely yours,



Norman Jacobs
Editorial Director

NJ:jpm