8 Oct - 7:30 A.M. - MANILA

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WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY
STEVENS ● POINT
54481

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Family -

Yesterday was a red letter day! Your letter, dated Oct 2, 1961 arrived - you and it was so good to hear from you and to have word of the family. It was interesting to note that it took only 5 days to get here. With that in mind I suggest that you not send any letters after the 18th or 19th at the latest - since I'll be leaving the afternoon of the 26th and any letters delivered on that day may not reach me here - of course you could send letters after that to the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

I spent almost all of yesterday at AID. - reading in the library and visiting with AID personnel. We are trying to get things set up so I can be "out" next week - to the three colleges where candidates are located - in addition to the two who are here in Manila at the Philippine Normal College. As my plans "firm up" I'll let you know.

Mr. Williams (Morrie) and I had lunch yesterday with a Mr. Yabot - who is an official in the central govt and has over-all responsibility for the 7 teachers colleges that are not chartered (there are two chartered ones and they have independent boards of trustees.). Mr. Yabot is a man of your age - very kindly and seems to be very competent. In our discussion it soon became apparent that the teachers colleges here have many things in common with teacher education programs in the U.S.

Some general notes and observations:

This is a country of sharp contrasts - wealth and poverty exist side by side - evidence of very different ways of life existing

over

in close proximity to each other. Examples: next door to the AID building, in the ruins of an old building a "squatter" and his family live - a piece of tin for a roof - open fire for cooking I don't know what, and youngsters with just rags for underpants on; On Dewey Blvd - the street that runs along the bay - 4 lanes divided by a grass parking strip - heavy traffic - taxis driving, as those who have been to both places say, as they do in Paris and Tokyo - fast reckless and with little concern for life or ~~property~~ property. At the same time I saw a boy in a horse drawn cart going along Dewey Blvd - the horse was skin and bones and the cart looked as if the next breeze would blow it to pieces - also on Dewey - a cab driver stopping his cab along the side of the highway in order to relieve himself -

Other contrasts - here I am in an air conditioned hotel room - with hot water, clean sheets, a good firm mattress, most of the conveniences of an American hotel - yet in the alley behind the hotel I saw women boiling clothes over an open fire and drying them on flat surfaces of broken pieces of concrete - dressed in worn and torn dresses and obviously in need for an improved diet.

More notes - Americans in Manila - they make me proud and ashamed - happy to be associated with them and yet apologetic for their behavior. Proud - of the AID people I have met and come to know - people dedicated and hard working - who certainly have made (and are making) every effort to know the Filippino and what he is like. But some of the tourists - two different "conducted world tours" have been here at the Hotel in the brief time that I have been here - and some of the participants make comments and act in a way that must hurt us in the eyes of the Filippino -. Last night, after dinner in the hotel dining room I sat in the lobby reading a newspaper - and next to me

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was a group of 4 Americans - women in their 50's - 60's - and, in rather loud voices were critical of everything they had seen and been a part of since arriving two days ago. Not saying anything I got up and went over and pushed the button for the self service elevator. When the elevator doors opened one of the women got up and came over, getting on the elevator with me - as we took up she said "The only time I feel safe here is with Americans - these "natives" are so dirty." Then she glared at me and asked - you are an American aren't you?" - It was probably a dirty trick but I looked back, and in my best accent replied "No, Russian". When the elevator stopped at the 4th floor (my room is on the 5th) she shot out of the elevator calling "Mary, Mary" - presumably to her travelling companion. I am sure it will be a wild story when she returns to the U.S. and tells the "girls" about the Russian spy she met in Manila!

Other Notes - Manila has 8 TV stations - as many as Los Angeles and New York - one of the favorite afternoon programs is "Bejoy Dance time" - Rock and Roll music and an M.C. that looks and talks like Dick Clark - also - guess what the last program of the evening is on one of the channels - coming on at 11 pm - Debbie Drake! It is amazing what we have exported to the Philippines!

Jan, you might send the Nelly Central Association check to me - air mail - and right away. There is some confusion about my travel here in the Philippines - I was told that the local AID would handle it but they say no - so I may need some additional money. I am not short now but it would be good to have the check - just

in case. We are sending a wire to Washington D.C. today and they may be able to clarify the situation. In any event please send the check so I have it, in case.

I picked up the Oct 9th issue of Time (Asian Edition) and there is a good article re the Philippines - you might all read it.

Jan, if the time is right, this should reach you on your birthday - I would like to be home to wish you happy birthday in person but you know that my love is with you and I'll be thinking of you, in a special way, on the 12th. We will have to celebrate your birthday dinner when I get home!

Time now to go over to the AID building and start work. All my love to all of you -

Jim