

Saigon, Vietnam

1 February 1967

Wednesday night -

(actually early Thurs AM)

My Dear Family -

It is 0030 in the morning - I have just returned from the Minister of Education's home where we had a wonderful dinner - and a delightful and most memorable evening.

Our invitations read for 2030 - we arrived on time - other guests included Bob Lefollette, Harold Winer, Alvis Harkes (SIO) Peter De and Peter Ho (Saigon & Caitho) and the members of our team. Mrs. Nguyen Van Thieu is a very gracious hostess and was most gracious. We sat out in an enclosed garden - under guava and mango trees - and had a magnificent meal - (I am enclosing the menu that was on the table - the trees were decorated with Christmas Tree lights and it was most lovely.

I felt strange - here we were - having an excellent meal - served in the very best of taste and "done just right" and yet several times during the meal I could hear the explosion of bombs and shells!

Just before the dinner I sat with the minister and we had a most beneficial discussion - he was very frank in talking about his government, and ours, the war, prospects for peace and some of the overriding issues here in Vietnam. He served as deputy prime minister under Diem - and was asked three times by Diem's successor to serve as Vietnamese ambassador to the U.S. He is a practicing dentist and has accepted his position as minister because of his

commitment to his country and its future.

The Thier's have 4 children - 3 boys and a 3½ year old girl. It was a memorable evening - one that has been the high light of our "social" stay so far.

Pending approval from Washington D.C. I'll see you next week - it looks as tho I'll be back for 2-3 days - to check on the contract for elementary & secondary educt - reorganizat - and I'll write tomorrow to Bill Vitar staff and send you a carbon so you will know what the tentative plans are - it will be a quality trip - too fast & too short a time - but I'll be home and that will be wonderful - assuming that approval comes through from Washington.

But, as I said, write tomorrow on that.

Now it is 0100 in the morning - Thursday and I must get some sleep.

Goodnight now and my love to each of you.

Dad -

Saigon Vietnam

2 February 1967

Thursday afternoon

Dear Family:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the office - it is self explanatory - unless Washington D.C. says no - I'll arrive in Chicago at 2330 (11:30 pm) from San Francisco (United Air Lines) - probably stay over the rest of the night in Chicago & fly to Stevens Point the morning of the 8th. I hope you can meet my plane for me.

I'd just as soon that a lot of people didn't know about the trip since I'll not have a lot of time and want to spend as much time as I can in planning - calling - and talking with others regarding the proposed project - and of course with you. So I'll stay at home & work out of there.

I'll be home Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, Friday and then will have to get to Chicago on Saturday in time to catch at 1515 o'clock plane for San Francisco and the flight back here. I'll return here arriving at 1100 on the 13th (losing a day crossing the international date line) and will be back to Saigon in time to make our scheduled trip to Dalat on Valentine's Day.

Perhaps we can celebrate Steve's Birth Day while I am here. Any way lets keep evenings free for family -

Needn't say I'm excited about coming home - unless Wodney says no (in which case I'll cable you that I'm not coming) I'll see you sooner than was expected when I departed the 2nd of January.

We visited faculty of letters this morning and go to Sciences this afternoon - letters has a good program going and we had a very fine visit and discussion with our colleagues there. On the way out of the letters bldg I purchased some hand painted cards that students were selling. I'll send one in a day or so.

Still impressed with our fine evening last night - we all enjoyed the dinner and talk with the minister and his wife.

Will love you - with my love continuing to go your way - always!

Dad.

P.S. Mch - your letter arrived today - thank you for writing.

Jan - you might call Bill Vickerstaff & Gordon - and indicate that you have heard from me - see what arrangements Bill has worked out (airfare to St. Louis, etc) and let them know I don't want a lot of publicity on the way out.)



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. AID MISSION TO VIETNAM

2 February 1967

Dr. Gordon Haferbecker
Acting President
Wisconsin State University
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Dear Gordon:

Unless Washington, D.C. disapproves, my plans are all set to return very briefly to the United States next week to discuss with you, Bill Vickerstaff, Paul Yeshurt and Bud Eagon the request that the Minister of Education of Vietnam has made that we assemble a team to come over to Vietnam to make a three-month study to recommend the reorganization of public education (K through 12). This request has been heartily endorsed by USAID Education, by Mr. Gilbertson, the Technical Director for USAID, by Mr. Donald MacDonald, the Director of USAID in Vietnam and by Ambassador Lodge. As indicated in my prior letter, I told them that I could not commit the University without prior consultation with you and without discussion with Mr. McPhee and the Board of Directors of our Foundation. That is the purpose of my returning next week.

According to the plans that I have made I will depart Saigon 1100 Tuesday, 7 February 1967 and arrive in Chicago at 2330, 7 February 1967. I hope to catch the morning Northwest Central plane from Chicago to Stevens Point arriving in Stevens Point Wednesday morning, 8 February. I will return to Chicago on Saturday, 11 February in time to depart at 1515 and arrive in Saigon at 1100 on 13 February 1967 (that is if I can stand the whirlwind pace).

I would like to meet with you, Paul Yeshurt, Bud Eagon and Bill Vickerstaff at my home in the late afternoon of the 8th so if you could keep your schedules open from three o'clock on I will call and make definite arrangements after arriving. I would also appreciate it if you could keep your schedules flexible on the 9th and 10th so that we can meet as necessary.

2 February 1967
Page Two

I would like for Bud Egon to give thought to this project, namely assembling a four or five member team of persons with a broad range of background and experience in elementary, secondary and administration of public education, who have the combination of imagination, conceptualization and flexibility and who are able to work with professional educators of a different culture in developing recommendations for the reorganization of that culture's educational system. I think we should think about people on our own campus, in the State of Wisconsin and qualified persons in the other 49 states. All of this assumes of course that we want to accept this and are able to do so.

Bill Vickerstaff should make a reservation for me at O'Hara Inn for late arrival on 7 February 1967. I'll plan to stay overnight there and come up to Stevens Point the morning of the 8th. Perhaps he could also arrange through the travel shop a reservation on the morning plane.

The dimensions of this potential assignment are staggering. In a sense the job is impossible; in another sense the opportunity is tremendous and the challenge is great. Let's talk about it.

Cordially,



James H. Albertson
Higher Education
Survey Team

cc: Dr. Burdett Egon
Dr. Yumbert
Dr. Vickerstaff
Mr. Eugene McPhee



MINISTÈRE
DE
L'EDUCATION NATIONALE DU VIËT-NAM

Dr. James H. ALBERTSON

Dr. James H. ALBERTSON



MENU

CONSOMMÉ MADRILÈNE CHAUD PRINTANIÈRE

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DÉLICES DE FILET DE BAR NORMANDE

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POULET GRILLÉ À L'AMÉRICAINNE

Haricots-verts - Tomates
Pommes frites

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SALADE MIMOSA

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PARFAIT CHOCOLAT ET VANILLE
MIGNARDISES

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