

Saigon, Vietnam
27 February 1967
Monday Night

My Dear Family -

The start of a new work week - this has been an interesting day and one with at least one surprise.

The day started early - with a team meeting at 0700 to discuss the several outlines various members of the team have advanced for consideration of our preliminary and final report outline.

Last night I asked Vince Courroy to attempt to synthesize the common ideas expressed and do this in the form of a suggested outline. He did a fine job and we had a good discussion for an hour and a half. Then part of the group was scheduled to go to a technical school so we broke up - but had another discussion this evening and will meet again at 0700 tomorrow in an attempt to agree on an outline and then start writing the draft.

Our deadline for completion of the preliminary report is March 10th for the writing - and March 15th for it to be printed and sent out to all our Vietnamese counterparts. If things continue as they are presently moving we should meet both of these dates for the preliminary report. We'll see.

This noon Mr. Aub - the manager of the Ly Hotel said "I have something serious to talk about" - I asked him to the room and, very seriously he told me

that he would like for me to get him some "Coke water" - for his "wedding days". He is to be married on the 11th of March. The result was an unscheduled trip to the PX and the presentation of the "Coke water" to him on behalf of the team. Now he is "so happy happy" - so that is good.

The surprise of the day came this evening - as we were sitting here in my room getting ready to go to hold it - 10 minutes later

Wow - I was about to tell you about the Catholic student demonstration here in Chien Si this afternoon at 1830 - when I heard a noise - dropped my pen and ran to the window - about 500 students all this very minute - passing my window - carrying torches and signs that, while written in Vietnamese, say that DeLoach, Fulbright and others who want to end the bombing are wrong and encouraging a tougher policy with North Vietnam.

The rally this afternoon was much the same - Catholic youth - mostly students - supporting the war effort & the "tough" policy. I just dictated a tape of this - and will send it to Mr Burns.

Well - two surprises?

The best thing that happened today was receiving your fine letter Jan - written and mailed on the 22nd. I especially enjoyed your humor - coming through several times in your letter -

(Tues - Feb 28)

Tomorrow you will be entertaining - I hope things are quiet but I also hope that they continue to make good progress. It will be interesting to get your next several letters telling of the changes from day to day and your reactions and judgments about them. And of course it will be great to get home and see the changes - completed. That will be good!

Today's mail also brought good letters from Kurt and Gordon - both quite lengthy telling of some of the activities (good and not so good) on campus and between the University and the planning commission. Gordon finished his letter by saying "this has been a hard week". We have a good team - and it is wonderful to know that they are there and working on the current problems. Perhaps I mentioned this when I was home but I haven't spent 10 minutes worrying about the University or some of the concerns there - not because I am not interested - but rather because I am very confident in the men and women who are there and doing the job.

Tomorrow is the last day of February - then March begins - and our work is over half done. I plan to check this week on return reservations and a stop over at Manila - I'll inform you as soon as it is set.

Now to close - my love to you -
Dad.

Saigon, Vietnam
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Tuesday Afternoon.

My Dear Family

I'm not sure just how much time I'll have this evening so I want to get this off to you this afternoon. Members of our team have been invited to attend a reception at 1930 at the Continental Palace Hotel. It is given by the Ohio University group honoring their Vice President for Academic Affairs and also ~~by~~ for their Director of International Programs. The Ohio University (Athens, Ohio) has a contract to work with the pedagogy schools here in Vietnam and their emphasis is ~~on~~ on secondary schools.

It is interesting how the weather the past couple of weeks has been almost the same. The temperature is slowly increasing (although they do not give daily reports as at home) but other than that there is a sameness that seems to pervade and almost control people as they are affected by the climatic and weather conditions.

Our meeting this morning went quite well. We have tentatively agreed on the four major headings of the preliminary outline. Now we are working on the "filling in" of the first two headings - Vince and I are taking the first and each member of the team is developing what he considers to be the important points in the second.

We will prepare our lists - distribute them this

Evening so we can study each other's ideas and thoughts and then have a group meeting again in the morning at 0700 to discuss.

Bob LaFollette dropped by this morning and we just visited for 20 to 30 minutes. He is quite a guy - 74 or 75 years old and yet he has the amazing quality of living in the present and the future. So many people that age live in the past - but not he. In addition, he is committed to the young people of this country - and wants nothing more but to serve them in programs for the improvement of education for this country.

What have each of you been doing just prior to reading this? What will you be doing after you have finished it? These are some of the thoughts that go through my mind as I think about you and as I write some of my thoughts to you.

Love,
Dad