



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. AID MISSION TO VIETNAM

4 February, 1967

My Dear Family:

It is early morning and before things get too busy I want to get this written and in the mail to you.

Last night we had another delightful time - a wonderful meal and the most charming host and hostess. The members of the team along with several other guests were invited by the Dean of Pharmacy and the owner of one of the large pharmaceutical laboratories here in Vietnam to dinner at the pharmaceutical owners home.

The home was lovely - with a number of lovely pieces of furniture and objects of art - Jade, fine hand carved tables, etc. We went there following the reception and cocktail party that the Rector of the University of Saigon gave. We arrived at 2030 and it was 2130 before we started to eat. I am enclosing a copy of the menu (the cover was done by their 14 year old son). All the food was delicious and we also enjoyed good table conversation with the Vietnamese and American guests. It was ~~12~~ 2400 before I returned to the Ly Hotel.

The party given by the Rector was held out on the lawn, next to the Rectorate. In addition to members of the team other guests included the Australian Ambassador, a number of cultural attache's, several people from our embassy and USAID, and numerous Vietnamese - faculty members, etc.

For a while I thought that I was stuck with the wife of one of the representatives from the Asian Foundation - she was very bitter about Vietnam and tried to tell me how bad things were. I finally managed to "pass" her off on the husband of a woman who represented a French cultural mission (she did not know until about 20 minutes later that he did not speak English). Such is a part of life in Saigon!

The members of the team will visit the Faculty of Pedagogy this morning with my team occupied with appointments at USOM and USAID-Education. There is more red tape and bureaus here than I had expected. Many of the personnel in AID seem to be spending all their time protecting their jobs and failing to see the significance of the several missions that are being conducted.

Tomorrow I hope to take a lot of pictures - flowers are out of Tet and the public gardens (near the new palace) are open. I have lost a small screw from my camera - I hope that I can get it repaired soon. It probably hasn't affected the operation of the camera but should be repaired.

*my love and thoughts go with this - to
each one of you*

Love

Dad.