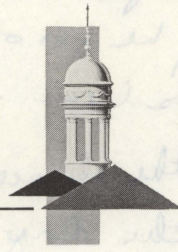


Saigon - Vietnam

2200

10 January 1967



WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN 54481

Jan Darling -

Very shortly I will be going to bed. Tonight I am tired and probably it is because I am beginning to "let down" and at the same time get into the routine of things here - at least it seems that way.

Before I do go to bed tho I want to write to you - to talk with you - More than that, I want to be with you. You are much in my mind and heart tonight.

A week ago today we left the U.S. and already it seems that much has happened. In fact the 2 1/2 days here in Saigon seems to me to be much longer than that - so many new sounds - new sights - and not so new smells.

This morning we had asked our drivers to bring the cars at 07:30. The were not here at 08:45 so we gave up and walked across the city for our first briefing at the office we have set up at the postoffice. at 0900 Mr. Winer and Bob LaFollette came and told us that the Vietnamese (VN) drivers were out on strike - so we were with out our cars today - and may be with out tomorrow too. It has been a little inconvenient, but a little good too for we have been closer to the people because of it.

Just before lunch I dictated a tape to the office - asking that a copy of the ~~transcripts~~ transcripts be given to you. Also, I sent a copy of a map of Saigon for you.

Our team is experiencing some frustration - to be expected but we will feel better when things are more "in place" and we know more about our work.

We may have some problems with Art Pickett - he is too ~~rigid~~ rigid & slow to bend - may be too opinionated, but we will see.

Bob LaFollette has been just grand and most helpful. I am fortunate in having the chance to work with him on this assignment. I try during the day to imagine what you are doing - what the youngsters are up to - and how everything is. I know that you are busy and that the youngsters are active with school and their other plans - and I know that your thoughts ~~will~~ come this way.

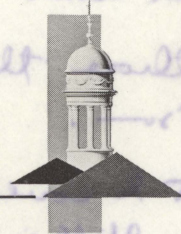
The first letter arrived today - a letter from Mother. Mailed for Seattle on January 5th. It was wonderful to get her letter & to know of her thoughtfulness.

My love goes out to you, Jan - I miss you and I pray for your health, well being and peace of mind.

Love,

J

11 January 1967
Saigon, S. Vietnam
1330
by Hotel
10130 in the morning



WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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what you are

My Dear Family -

It is siesta time - from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm - most people ^{to eat} stop and take a rest. It is wise since this is the heat of the day and to be out in the sun is not wise. I want to use this time to talk with you.

I am beginning to feel more comfortable with our situation here - in the sense that a few things are beginning to fall in place and while the task looks larger than ever I am beginning to sense that we are moving into it. There still are a number of contacts that need to be made, and they are important ones and ones that cause us to move slowly. ^{the day before} Yesterday we met with the Minister of Education and were greatly impressed with him and his interest in our work and hope for the future. Today we met with Dr. Da (pronounced Day) who is the rector of the University of Saigon - a man educated in France and an M.D. as well as Rector. Dr. Da speaks very little English - how I wish that I could speak French (I just want to take it when I come home) - but we had the services of an interpreter and our meeting went well. Again, we were impressed with the dedication and commitment on his part and this adds to our sense of responsibility.

The USAID people moved our furniture into the factory this morning so we are exceedingly well situated and when our secretary arrives on Monday we should be off and running.

We still have some problems with our Per Diem but I hope to resolve those this afternoon with the Deputy Director of MD, a Mr. Culbertson.

I wish that I could adequately describe the people. They are not unlike the Filipinos in that they are courteous, very friendly, kind and industrious. The women have a grace and ease of movement that is pleasing and the children are like children everywhere - hard to leave alone.

Our team will work quite well together - Harry Baughey is excellent, as is Howard Johnson. But Mel Wall and Don Beattie are also very fine and complement each other as well as skills the rest of us have. Art Rickett should do alright altho he is having a difficult time adjusting to the new environment. He is too concerned with food and personal convenience and comfort - but I am confident that he will adjust.

The greatest danger to one's person is the traffic. It is very heavy and cars, busses, motor driven bicycles, trucks, buses, bicycles, horse drawn vehicles, etc - always on the move and seemingly about to crash into each other. So far however I have seen just two accidents.

The food is good and some of us are anxious to do more experimenting - Papaya is excellent and so are the lychee's + pineapples - in general all fruits are very good and I eat it when ever I can.

Needless to say - I think of each one of you and you are in my heart constantly. I love each one and send my love in this letter.

Dad

P.S. The picture enclosed was taken by USOM Photographer Jimmy 10ced - thought you would like to see that I haven't lost any weight - yet any way
(DARN IT)

Dad