



EMBASSY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SUNDAY - 15 JAN. 1967  
SAIGON

U.S. AID MISSION TO VIETNAM

Dear Family -

It is late afternoon - on my first full Sunday in Saigon and since I cannot be with you in person for our "family day" I do want to talk with you through this letter.

Today, like all of the days so far, has been different and full of new experiences.

I got up at 0700 took a shower, shaved and put on a clean shirt (the laundry girl washed and ironed my shirts for me for 15 piasters (about 12¢). Several of us wanted to walk to breakfast - taking our cameras and taking pictures as we went. That is what we did and it was fun. We ended up at the Continental Hotel - about a mile east of our Hotel where we had papaya, coffee and toast.

At 1100 we went to the International Protestant Church - just 3 blocks from the Hyatt Hotel. A very lovely building - air conditioned sanctuary - and a good service. I am enclosing a copy of the bulletin for your interest. The crowd was a mixture of civilians and military - common and some officers - the sermon concluded by the idea that if man is to attain peace he must find it within himself. Very good.

After church our cars & drivers came and we went to the International House for dinner - I had hot dogs wrapped in



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Laugh and looked in the oven - it was OK but not as good as I had hoped.

This afternoon we have been working in the office and at 6:30 (1830) we will stop and go to supper. I am writing this as a break in my afternoon schedule.

I want to get this in the mail tonight in hopes that you will get it by the 20<sup>th</sup>.

So far I have received the three envelopes you mailed on the 17<sup>th</sup> - your letter for me and the 3 letters from the office as well as the diggings. I hope tomorrow will bring more mail!

We are very fortunate to be here this time of year - so far it has not rained and the weather, while hot at mid day, is summer like and not unbearable at all. I understand it will get hotter (April is the hottest month) but we do not have anything to complain about.

While down town this noon I looked through the "street of flowers" - this is supposed to be particularly lovely during "Tet" - the lunar new year coming up February 8-11. I got a potter plant for an officer and looked at but did not purchase an orchid plant - approximately 30 blooms - for 500 Pictas or \$4.25. All in all though prices here are quite high - in fact is much in evidence and things are not cheap.



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After supper now and I want to retire soon.  
Harry, Howard and I went to the Guilloume Tell  
(Wille's Tell) restaurant - east of the Saigon River - for dinner. I had  
clams on the half shell - with parsley and mushrooms grilled - can you smell  
it? - very good.

Now I am in my room at the top and seated at the desk - writing  
area. In the distance outside I can hear the shelling and bombing of the  
"iron triangle" area - from the 5th floor you can see the flames and the  
flashes from the explosions - and I feel a little guilty - here in a  
comfortable hotel - a full stomach and relatively secure - and just a  
few miles to the north and to the east men are dying. Strange isn't it!

I am full of pride for all of you - of our family and the closeness  
I feel with you - I am very fortunate to have all of you and to be  
a part of you. For that I am especially thankful tonight.

Love -

Dad.