

My Dear Family -

Saigon, Vietnam
19 January 1968
2:45 o'clock

Strange - if I do not get to sleep
by 10 o'clock I am tired the next day -
even though I have been napping each
noon - The climate seems to demand more rest than I get
at home. Perhaps part of it is also the strain of wanting to
hear and see ~~and~~ everything and also to do things right.

Slight drizzle set

In any event we get up at 0500 tomorrow since we leave the city
at 0600 - to the airport by 0630 and then a flight via air
America (Special flight) to Contho. We will be there all day
and plan to return by 1700 or so.

PAN AMERICAN
IN FLIGHT AIR LETTER



Today was a real letter day! Our meeting at 0900 with Father De
and the Deans and other personnel from the faculties here at the
University of Saigon went very well. I'll send you a copy of
my "speech" - we seem to be well received and by the end of our
meeting we had agreed to meetings with all the faculties of the
University - they (meetings) will take place from Jan 30 to
Feb 6th. It was a little difficult working through a translator
but all went well and I am grateful for that.

Then this afternoon - we went to Van Hanh (pronounced
Van Han) - the ~~best~~ Buddhist university. First of all I was
taken by the setting - located in very poor area - just shacks - little
shaded from the weather. The building is new & still under
construction. Then I was greatly impressed by Father Chou - a
Buddhist - very fine mind - a pale scholar (that's a language)
and probably the finest in the world. A man frail of body - delicate
in his mannerisms - yet strong of mind. There are about 55 members
of the faculty and 1200 students - an interesting feature of the
building is the meditation center - the entire roof area. Still
under construction but it will have a guide area - running
water in long tanks - areas where you can walk and a meditation
room that will seat 50. A high wall surrounds the total area -
so you cannot see the world - only the sky! And when completed
there will be no conversation anywhere. Only a place to go - to think -
to meditate! - Very impressive.

To top the day off - I have had the bug - my bowels started running
this morning (just made it through the meeting) and I passed a lot
of water this noon - now I am better and feel as though I'll make it
OK! I have avoided taking any medicine - hope I'll build a natural
immunity - we'll see. Well this goes my love for my family - cook & all!
Dad.