

My Dear Family -

1515 o'clock
aprox 8,000 feet -
over Vietnam
23 January 1967

Another full and interesting day - it started out at 0500 leaving & having a can of orange juice in my room we left the hotel at 0600 and picked Bob Labolle and his Vietnamese assistant, Mr. Binh (pronounced Biney) up on the way to the air port. We then left Saigon at about 0710 via Air America in a twin Beech air craft - 8 passengers & the pilot - the plane was full though we were told not very spacious.

The flying time to Dalat is normally 60 minutes but with the weather north we went the wrong clouds and rain covered mountain (we ended up) Dalat a couple of times but could not see the sun city or the airport so the pilot asked if we wanted to go back to Saigon or fly over to HNATRAN (or Lai) we said lets go to HNATRAN - so we did landing there about two hours and 45 minutes from the time we departed from

Abols 2121

- by air & road

Saigon.

1/17/69 E&L

- plus 7 Feb 27

Ron Wile, who was at Da Lat when we
were there as USPID Education chief in HATRANG -
he was to meet us in Da Lat - since that is in a
bit "region" - when we got out of the plane
at HUATRANG - there was Ron - and also
Marion Klein. Ron had planned to fly to Da Lat
but couldn't because of the weather. So in
we have wanted to go to Huatrang any
way since it is the site of the National
Oceanographic Institute - so we adjusted our
plans and spent the time up to 1230 at
the Institute with its director Dr. Hoai Van
(Howard Hi) and toured the facilities
and talked with a number of his staff
personnel. It is quite an experience - to this
visit and see what they do with very
limited resources. They have six or seven
basic laboratories and a museum plus facilities
for visiting students who come for short terms

progress.

I hope I can make a log tonight and send it back so people at home can share some of the experiences that I had there. At noon today

Hastings is famous for its sea food - since it is right on the coast of the South China Sea and has shrimp, lobster and sole in great abundance. Needless to say we went to a local restaurant and I had lobster (two halves) French bread and fish rice. It was an excellent meal and it cost 300^{1/2} which is about \$2⁴⁰. That is with the inflation that they are having here.

After lunch we took a brief tour of the city hall (approx 15,000) and then stopped in Maurice's apartment for a minute before we headed out to the outfit - a military base that Air America uses. Below were bus stations for tourist who

Now we are flying back to Saigon - no form for the men are playing bridge - Doy and Edward are watching the clouds roll out the window and Mr. ~~Beattie~~ Bink is in the co-pilot's seat - he is thilled! we should

lie on the ground in a half hour or so - and then look to the big hills. They are about 7

On the way to Houtonafarne flew over ~~the~~ ^{over} land bank (can ran) Bay - the big military base that resident Johnson visited. The clouds were very low, so we flew about 100 feet above the water - bank right between islands and then flying low along the side of the base - quite a thrill for all of us.

Now as I look out the window I see the ground - the clouds are thinner here and the land here is not unlike certain parts of the United States - trees - open fields - rivers and a few roads and towns of Newcastle

in front of me (about the very back) but is a mass of hot water and some instant coffee so I'll see who wants some coffee.

Bye for now - and my regards to you all at the new hotel in ~~Dobson~~ - as known

It is a dirty ~~old~~ M. Best washing roads etc! Hellish road - tree ably - as

P.S. -

It's about 16 degrees - we arrived at 1630
 And our cars were there at 1730 - when
 I got back to the Hotel from letter just
 written last week and mailed on May 1st and
 was waiting. (4 days from S.P. to mail is good).
 It was wonderful to hear you and your wife
 know about things at home (even the cold weather
 and the snow) and to visualize what you
 have been doing lately and all the rest of it.

I was shocked to read of Harry Kallander's tragic
 death - it is difficult to understand and to accept
 completely now "so sweet is evil & so perfect".
 It was good to see only of the central air first
 decision and the Mayor's decision not to run away.

Steve & Chuck wish I were there to give
 some assistance in snow shoveling - perhaps there
 will be a let up in the snow for a while - so
 although it is supposed to get worse in February
 and March! hope so!

I wonder how deep the snow is around our

2 - 26
cabin? Wouldn't it be great to go out and
spend the week! to eat new and new food

We have been getting the Asian edition of
time messenger and I'll look for the Gardner
(copy - thanks for mentioning.) pictures now

Many times during the night and often while
during the day I can hear the continuous roar of the
bombing and artillary fire - mostly it is
to the North East of our hotel although in this
past weekend there was some activity to the
South and less bombardment at the hills & the - hills

They talk here in terms of "security regions"
when you inquire about a place they say - it is
secure - or it is not secure - there is constant
concern about regarding it and that way you
know if you go some place it is going to be no
on - they would not permit us to go if it were
not "secure" - so happens a lot especially
longer distances
we know or were informed (and shown)