

Saigon, Vietnam
Saturday Evening
28 September 1967

Dear Family -

Our third week here draws to a close - and it is good. This has been a full and demanding week and I am glad it is behind us. Next week will be a busy one but we will be here and working with the University of Saigon faculty.

I slept hard last night and awoke this morning refreshed and ready for the day. We worked with the Rector and several of the staff members from the University of Cantho - starting at 0830 and concluding at noon with a lunch that we "hosted".

Our meeting started with us all together and then we broke up into groups - one on curriculum and the other on faculty and students.

After the groups got started I went down to US-510 building and had a couple of appointments - trying to work out details, etc. Vince Conway arrives tomorrow at 1200 and we are trying to get things set for his arrival. He will be staying here with us and we will attempt to make his orientation as easy as possible - in any event my meetings this morning largely dealt with that.

I got back to the Rectorate at 1145 - just in time to help break up the group meetings and go to lunch. Howard had arranged the luncheon - we had it at the Majestic Hotel downtown - and it went very well.

The food was good and the fellowship between our colleagues from Cantho and the team was excellent.

After lunch 5 of us went over to the dispensary and got our follow-up gamma globulin shot. I think that is the last shot I am to get - all my boosters, etc are "in" now and as long as I take my Malaria preventative pills I am all set.

The only problem is I have eaten too much the past three days - back to my diet tomorrow!

Enclosed is a copy of the outline we are following in the data gathering stage of our work - and also a copy of a letter I sent to Bill Vickershoff. The latter is very "iffy" and I hesitate saying anything since nothing may develop - but I do want you to know what is developing. It would be wonderful to come home for a few days (probably 3 at the most) and I would work out of the den at home and wouldn't want any word to get out until it is all set - then only those people who would have to be involved.

The challenge of making recommendations regarding the total educational system in Vietnam is great. However I cannot let it interfere with this present assignment and I could not extend my own stay here. It would mean recruiting a team to come over late May and being here through the summer. - Well - something to think about and I'll keep you informed! Let's not build up our hopes too

much though for it may not come about.

No mail from home since last Monday - I hope I hear from you when the mail comes in next Monday. I believe that I mentioned to you that I received a nice letter from your mother.

After two nights in Hue - Saigon seems like a noisy city (which it is). They are getting ready for Tet which means fire crackers are going off outside the hotel - it is a good thing my nerves are in good shape for some of the sounds are like rifle shots! In addition to the fire crackers there is the constant noise of Hondas, motor bikes, cars, etc. Hue was very quiet in comparison.

I miss each of you very much - I love you and pray for your health and peace of mind - and although we are very far apart I am close to you and send all my love.

Dad.

OUTLINE
SURVEY OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
OF
VIETNAM

*In case you might
like to see our
organizational lay-
out*

Control

National)		
University	)	Policy	- Historical - Current & Contemplated
Faculty	)	Practice	

Organization

National)		
University	)	Policy	- Historical - Current & Contemplated
Faculty	)	Practice	

Administration

National)		
University	)	Policy	- Historical - Current & Contemplated
Faculty	)	Practice	

Finance

Income & Expenditures)		
Accounting & Budgeting	)		- by levels - National, University, Faculty
Ability of Country to)		
Finance in Future)		

Facilities

General Description
Equipment & Space Use
Adequacy for Program
Plans for Future

Academic Programs

Curriculum - Undergraduate & Graduate
Degrees & Licenses Granted
Method(s) of Evaluation
Program Development (future plans)

Library

Holdings - Number and type (books, periodicals)
Language of holdings - Vietnamese, English, French, Other

Budget

Holdings
Equipment
Personnel

Method of Operation - hours, acquisition policy, etc.
Facilities
Future plans

Faculty Personnel

Number by rank by faculty
Professional preparation
Teaching loads
Financial reimbursement
Policy Formation
Professional Growth & Development
Reimbursement, Retention, Promotion, Recruitment, Policies & Practices
Academic Freedom
Benefits - Retirement
Office Facilities, secretarial assistance, technical & student assistance
Social Status of Faculty in Country

Student Personnel

Registration, Records
Co-curricular programs, interests, etc.
Housing, Boarding & Health
Counseling, Placement, etc.

(to you)
Read my letter just

24 January 1967

Confidential

Mr. William Vickerstaff
Wisconsin State University
Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481

Dear Bill:

This is to keep you informed of a possible development and major additional assignment for us.

Last Saturday Mr. Harold Winer, the Acting Director of USAID Education, asked Dr. LaFollette and two other direct hire AID personnel and myself to a conference. At the conference he indicated that the Minister of Education in consultation with Premier Nguyen Cao Ky wants to have a master plan for the reorganization of all of Education in Vietnam ready for the national meeting of the new congress. As you may know, a delegate assembly is meeting now with the objective of drafting a new constitution. It is hoped that this document (this constitution) will be completed by the first of August and that the new congress can meet shortly thereafter.

The Minister informed Mr. Winer that he would like very much to have the help and assistance of the Americans in developing some ideas and the plan that could be presented. To telescope all of this, Mr. Winer has asked me in turn to consider this as an additional project.

At the conclusion of the meeting on Saturday, after Mr. Winer presented the proposal, I indicated that I wanted time to think about it and could not react to it now, that it seemed to be a great challenge and one that could afford a rare opportunity while at the same time it seemed impossible to do in such a short time.

We had our follow-up meeting this morning and I spent about forty-five minutes talking about the issue at hand and about various possibilities associated with it. The following is a capitulation of the thoughts that I presented. First, I divided the whole issue into two parts. One, the request from the Minister and some of the things that this request had to imply. Second, I dealt with the possibility of our taking this on as an added assignment. Regarding the first I raised these points:

1. Is it the Premier's and the Minister's intent to develop a master plan for all of Education or for certain segments of it? For instance, is this elementary and secondary in total or for just public elementary and secondary? (At the present two-thirds of the secondary students are enrolled in private institutions.) Further, what about vocational,

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technical and adult education? Is this a part of their proposed master plan?

2. To what extent and by whom or what body have national goals and purposes been established for the country and for education? It seems to me that it is imperative to relate a master plan and a re-organization to the goals or objectives or purposes that a country holds for itself and for the education of its young people.
3. And related to 2. have goals been established for regional and provincial governments? If not, will they be, and if they have, by whom and what are they?
4. What is (are) the viable level(s) of government that the Vietnamese are trying to create now and ten years from now and how will these relate to educational proposals and objectives? It is a well known fact that at the present time every effort is being made to create, maintain and stabilize a strong central government but is this temporary or a part of a long range plan and one that will be continued as the organizational plan for government? Related to that of course is the whole area of relationship of the educational purposes and objectives to the unit of government.
5. We have been told that to date the United States Government through AID has attempted to accomplish three major objectives. One, construction of hamlet schools, two, train teachers and three, prepare, publish and distribute textbooks. How do these three objectives relate to what is taught? (Forgive the editorial comment but I am afraid that this is a loaded question. So far the events indicate that there has been no correlation!)
6. What plans, if any, has been made to work with Vietnamese counterparts?

In terms of the second point, as to whether we accept this additional assignment or not, I tried to present the following considerations:

1. We already committed ourselves to one project, survey of higher education and nothing regarding the future of this program should be done to detract from the completion of it and particularly to take away from the qualitative aspects that must be a part of the fulfillment of our commitment to USAID, to Dr. LaFollette and to ourselves.
2. In any event I cannot make the decision by myself because this will affect the University and the Foundation.

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3. Recruitment of personnel is extremely important and to accomplish this, time is essential. Mr. Winer talked in terms of three months and it would be possible to recruit a team and have it here in June. In fact June, July and August would be good months to get a team from the States to come over.
4. The team ought to include four or five people representing elementary and secondary education and one or two "generalists".

As you may know we are soon approaching the time of Tet which is the lunar New Year and as some have indicated is a combination of Christmas, New Year's and the 4th of July (as we know them). This is, legally, a four-day holiday commencing at noon the 8th of February and ending the noon on the 11th. However, there is some "spillover" at each end. In any event everything stops during that period and while some members of the team had planned to go to Singapore on a personal trip it was my intent to stay here and organize additional reading in conjunction with this project. The thought entered my mind and I suggested it to Mr. Winer that in order to find out if this is a project that we would like to take on and if it were possible to accept I could arrange to return to the United States departing here February 7th and returning on the 12th. In that way I would not detract from the program of this project and I would be in a better position to answer his question as to whether we would accept the work.

Mr. Winer was receptive to all of these points as was Bob LaFollette. They are checking them out with the Embassy and with Washington, D.C. and will let me know shortly of their reaction to them.

All of this to say Bill that these things are not definite but I want you to be aware of them at the outset. Nothing is definite at this point and I do not want to get a lot of people excited about it until I hear more from Mr. Winer. If I get the green light I will want to write and get some meetings set up so that I can take full advantage of the two or three days that I will be back in the States. I will keep you informed.

Mr. Winer indicated that the contract had arrived. I presume that you have the money and that you are making the payments according to the schedule outlined. Please inform me if there are any problems that have arisen that I should let the men know about.

Best wishes,

J. G. Albertson
Survey of Higher
Education Team

cc: Dr. Gordon Hafervecker, Acting President
Wisconsin State University