

Saigon Vietnam  
31 January 1967  
Tuesday Evening

My Dear Family -

If you hear explosions in the background it is not the VC - but rather firecrackers and the equivalent to our cherry bombs - it is the early celebrations of Tet.

Our schedule called for a visitation to the faculty of medicine today - we were not able to go since they have been having problems with Nguyen Cao Ky the Prime Minister. He signed a decree just before going on his trip to New Zealand placing the Med. School under his authority (removing it in effect from the University of Saigon) and wiping out the faculty council - the policy body in the faculty of medicine. Then he named a "management committee" - 5 professors who were to run the faculty. The management committee met over the weekend and announced that they would hold an election of the faculty for a new dean. As soon as the new dean is elected then they plan to terminate their committee and pass the power back to the faculty council and the new dean - when it goes back to the faculty council then the faculty will be "back in" the University and the objectives of the Prime Minister will have been accomplished (the dean will be out and a new dean in - the old dean was not liked by the Ministry of Cultural and Social Affairs)

Well - the faculties have been meeting over this, the students in several of the faculties also have been and are meeting - there have been demonstrations (students lying in the street to stop traffic near the med school)

and the result today, as far as we were concerned, was that our 1500 appointment with the Dean and the faculty was cancelled. We will be "notified" when we can meet with them.

Most of the morning was spent in running errands and I met with Bob La Follette this afternoon for a while. The rest of the time was spent in the office - keeping up with my reports, etc. and notes on interviews, etc.

Tonight we went down to the Rex BOP for dinner. I had juice for breakfast, half a can of Segal (diet drink) for lunch so I ate roast beef, soup & salad for dinner - all for \$1.00. Good luck!

Have I told you anything about the woman who cleans my room and washes my shirts, pants, etc? I have no idea how old she is - I guess in her mid twenties. She is about Phil's size and her name is Miss Hai pronounced Hi. I don't know when I have seen any one as shy as she. A week ago Sunday, to illustrate, we were walking to church and I noticed she was coming from the other direction. As we moved along she hid behind a tree and moved around it so we would not see her.

The first week we were here Harry got my key from the desk and let himself into my room to get a package he had left. As he started out Miss Hai came in and thought he had taken something of ~~my~~ mine - she was very upset and it wasn't until I came and said it was OK that

she accepted matters. Afterward I told her - through the manager since she knows no English and I no Vietnamese - that she had done the right thing and to keep it up. Well, since then she wants me to give her my key (she carries a master) so that no one will pick it up at the desk and let themselves in.

She also does my laundry - this week <sup>and</sup> I had two pair of trousers, two sets of underwear, three shirts, two pair of socks and my wash & wear suit - I left 200 Piastres on the bed with all the clothes - and Monday evening all the clothes were washed, pressed (very well done too) and she had put 100 Piastres on the desk. That means she did it all for about 85¢ our money. I wonder if Nornington knows about her? I feel guilty paying her so little but that's the way she seems to want it.

I am getting some things together to give her at Tet - soap, vegetable oil I got at the PX & a sewing kit.

Just before supper tonight I had my hair cut. Two weeks ago Mr. Winter mentioned that he had a Chinese barber - who was good - the men asked to have him come by - so he came by and has been back each Monday or Tuesday night - two of us have been having our hair cut each time and tonight it was Mel Wall's & my turn. The barber used to cut General Maxwell Taylor's hair - when he was ambassador here - and (incidental to that fact) he is good.

Tomorrow night we go to the Minister of Education's home

for dinner so it is good that I got the hair<sup>cut</sup> that was beginning to curl around my ears.

My health is excellent - if any thing I am not getting enough exercise - I am trying to eat light and am sleeping well.

Many times I have thought about our cabin and this spring and summer. I am anxious to get the foam mattresses so we have our beds "sleepable" - won't that be great!

Has John started the remodeling on the kitchen yet? - Is the toilet installed in the down stairs bath? - I am curious to know.

Now I'll stop talking and listen to you for a while - you are all very close - I love you very much - and miss you too.

Love

Dad.