

Saigon, Vietnam
11 March 1967
Saturday Evening

My Dear Family -

If you could see me right now you would probably laugh. I took an hour and a half at noon time today - went swimming at the Rex - Boq pool (on top of the building) and spent part of the time sun bathing - result - I am slightly pink. In fact my chest felt warm and my face has that sunburned feel. None the less it was great to get out in the sun - relax and not feel the pressure of a time schedule. Perhaps that is why I am a little burned - I didn't pay enough attention to time.

I'm not certain if I mentioned it in last night's letter or not - but Thursday I got the word that the "Mission Council" - that is General Westmoreland, Ambassador Lodge, Directors of AID - McDonald and the various other Directors here in Vietnam - at their regular meeting would consider what to do about the University of Hue. We were asked if we would submit a position paper stating our views and of course I said we would.

Yesterday we worked on that paper - exchanging ideas and views then we drafted a paper - "polished" it last night and I took it to Winer's office this morning. Mr. Winer said that he was optimistic that the U.S. govt might reestablish programs at Hue. We certainly hope so and look forward to that possibility.

The dinner last night that Vince Conway and I attended

was very interesting. At the dinner last Sunday we met Dr. Ahng who has his B.A. from the University of Kansas and PhD from Cal. Tech. He teaches mathematics in the Faculty of Science here at the University of Saigon. Anyway, we arranged to meet him tonight - last night I mean - for dinner, we got to his apartment to pick him up and he had the table set - we used to be his guests at his home.

In typical Vietnamese style - we did not see his wife all evening. She cooked the meal but the servant girl and his 13 year old son (they have 5 children) served us.

We had pork pie, meat rolled up in rice paper and fish soup. The food was good but most interesting was the conversation. We shared with him some of the ideas we have included in the report and asked his reaction to them. He was quite cautious but did comment in one or two areas. It makes me all the more curious to know what responses we will get from our "official" counterparts. That will come the week after next.

In the conversation Dr. Ahng told us that when he was studying in the United States he was gone for 7 years - from his family and his home. A lump came to my throat for I know how hard it has been to be away from you just these few weeks - but to be away from one's loved ones for 7 years - that is a real sacrifice and one

that I don't know how a person could make. I'm glad I don't have to contemplate it!

Two weeks ago I wrote to Bob Simpson and Paul Yaubert - asking them to get a book for me to give to Rector Ho of Cantho. The book arrived today a volume entitled "Forest Ecology" and one that he should enjoy. It certainly came through quickly and I greatly appreciate their efforts. I'll give the book to Rector Ho next week.

Perhaps Rector Ho will be able to visit us in the United States - that would be a privilege for us for he is such a fine man and you would all like him very much.

Here are a few anecdotes that you may find interesting:

- 1) A major here observed a group of Vietnamese squatting along the side of a U.S. goat building. Trying to show his interest in them and their welfare - he said "get those people a bench." A bench was constructed and placed along the building - now the Vietnamese are seen on top of the bench - squatting!
- 2) Last Monday we were in the Rectorate having a team meeting - it was early - 8:00 and I glanced out of the window and observed the following: A young Vietnamese woman (I'd guess 19-21 yrs) went out to the center of Chien Si - ~~and~~ she was dressed in a lovely pink Ao Dai - with pink flowers on - she got on one side of a large tree - but in full view to me - very gracefully lifted the back panel on her Ao Dai.

slipped down her white trousers, relieved her self,
stood up - very neatly arranged her clothing - including
adjustment of her gloves and then walked away.

How about a letter from you Cindy - from you Steve
and one from you Chuck? By the time you read this
(which will be about the 15th or 16th) and get a letter written
and sent to me it will be the 24th or 25th - and I would
like to hear from you. I know you are all busy but maybe
you can squeeze in a few words.

I hope you all have a good weekend - I'll be thinking
of all of you and especially of you Phil - on your Birthday
tomorrow.

Love

Dad