

Saigon, Vietnam
17 March 1967

My Dear Family -

I really should write this in green ink - since it's St. Patrick's Day - but I'll just wish you the best - in blue ink that is!

Today started early - I awoke at 0530 - decided to get up and walk to breakfast which I did. It was dark when I left the Hotel and the orange color slowly developed in the East as I walked down and as I sat in the Rex Bar dining room (5th floor). My breakfast was leisurely since I was early but even so I walked back and worked at the hotel at 0700 - the time the rest of the men were just ready to go.

Most of the morning was spent in visiting the Photo Technical school - programs in electricity, metal work, auto mechanics, jewelry, sheet metal, woodworking, ceramics, home economics and business. I was pleased to meet 4 or 5 graduates of Short running the several sections of the technical institute. The buildings and equipment were furnished by APO and it was by far the best program we have seen - best buildings, equipment, etc.

This afternoon I dictated several love letters - to Bud Egan and members of the Elm - Secondary Team. I hope that they get off to a good start and I want to give them as much affection as possible. Sincerely, Joe

You might give the books we have re Vietnam to Bud Ego so he can start reading them.

I spent from 1600 to 1700 talking with Bob LaFollette regarding the preliminary report - he had some excellent reactions to the report - generally very favorable - and I made notes on his suggestions. He is a great guy - I can't get over how wonderful he has been to our work and his interest, support and general enthusiasm have been wonderful.

From 1715 to 1815 we had a team meeting - to talk about the work of the next few weeks and to get set for the next week. I tried to emphasize that this next week we need to be good listeners - to draw out from the Vietnamese their reactions, ideas and thoughts regarding our report so we can consider their ideas in writing the final draft.

You might be interested - on Monday the 20th we meet with USAID people to discuss our report - Tuesday we have a session with the University of Saigon colleagues - Wednesday we go to Catho to get reactions from Peter Ho and his colleagues - Thursday we fly to Hue and on Friday we meet with Peter Auk and his associates to discuss the report - flying back to Saigon Friday night.

Then Saturday we start "brainstorming" the reactions and ideas - Easter Sunday afternoon we will continue hoping

to start the writing on Monday the 27th of March. If all goes well we will finish the writing that week and have the report ready to distribute the week following (5 April 1967) is the target date for distribution of the final report.

According to that schedule most of the team members will be leaving the 7-8-9 of April. Harry leaves on the 10th and I'll go to Maider the 11, 12 & 13th. Then I'll come back here - spend the weekend and leave for home on the 17th with overnight stops at Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seattle - arriving in Stevens Point the 20th! Bob LaFollet wants me to stay until the 1st of May - I want to move my departure date up to the 11th and cancel the Philippine trip - but I'm trying to keep the schedule outlined above and I hope I can wait until the 20th of April.

It is after 2100 and I must be going to bed - tomorrow Harry, Mel and I leave at 0630 (from the airport - we leave the hotel at 0530) to ~~go~~ fly to Nhatrang. We will revisit the oceanographic institute and hope to do some swimming in the South China Sea. More about that tomorrow.

My love to you now - and I want each of you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Love

Dad.

P.S. Jim - your fine letter of the 10 & 11th came today - good to read and re-read it. Thanks.