

Airborne

1800

22 March 1967

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This is being written from a twin  
beech air plane - we just took off from  
Cantho and are flying north to Saigon.  
We were to leave Cantho, as a group, at  
1645. However when the plane came there  
were seats for seven and we had eight  
in our party so I suggested that the  
seven others go ahead and I would fly  
in the next plane. Forty-five minutes later  
a plane came with an extra seat - and  
that's where I am now.

This has been an interesting and event-  
filled day.

We left Saigon at 0700 and were on the  
ground at Cantho by 0800. Car met us at the  
airport and we were taken to USAID for a  
discussion with the head of the new life develop-  
ment program - a Cliff Nelson - and Dr. Hoys  
who is in charge of education in the  
Cantho region. Both of them had read our

report and were complimentary.

At 9:00 we went to the lecture and spent two hours with Beeter Ho and his associates discussing the report and their reactions to it. Basically they were enthusiastic and very complimentary. We got several good suggestions from them and in turn modified some of our ideas and thinking. It was a good exchange of ideas and very valuable for us.

Needless to say we were somewhat apprehensive about their reaction and were relieved and pleased with the response we got.

Dr. Hoey had invited us to lunch at his house so we drove over there. He stays in a very fine house leased by AIB. He invited us to lunch and served us dinner - ham, chicken, green beans, etc. Too much but it was very good and we certainly enjoyed the food and especially his hospitality.

Some of the team members stayed at Hoey's

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after lunch - others of us went for a "fora" out into the country. It was most interesting - visited a small school and enjoyed watching the youngsters - drove west for eight or ten miles to a point where they stopped us and said "across this bridge is VC country - you better go back" - so we did!

I hope you can read this - my writing is bad enough but the plane makes it even worse. I'll stop now and add more tonight when I get home (to the Ly. Hotel).

Saigon, Vietnam  
22 March 1967

My Dear Family

I have debated if I should send the letter I wrote on the airplane or not - since you may have difficulty in reading it. I have decided to go ahead and mail it anyway - partly because I am tired tonight and a little lazy in re-writing it.

It was great to get home to the Ly Hotel and find your letter from the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> - to hear about the kitchen (and the drain problems) - PEO (I rather hope you decide to join) and the fact that the dolls, hat, the candy and the Hong Kong silk have arrived. Also pleased that the cross-bow worked. (Maybe I'll get a letter from you Chuck).

No word from Hy Anderson - as far as I know he has not <sup>tried to</sup> call and I have not received a letter or a cable from him. There is no doubt in my mind but that McKee, Petrovski and Fick will try to get me into this situation somehow - guess I'll just have to be prepared for it.

Your letters were full of news and I plan to re-read them just before going to bed.

We leave early in the morning for Hue - will be there tomorrow night and then return to Saigon Friday afternoon. It will be the second university reaction to

The preliminary report and I am looking forward to their reaction.

Rektor is inviting the team to have dinner at his home near Saegor - at The Dae. He has a house in Leutho too but said he wanted us to come to his The Dae home for dinner on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I am afraid that after the final report is completed I won't be able to wait until the 20<sup>th</sup> of April and my arrival at home. I know it is best for me to stay here and make certain that all the loose ends are tied - but I do so want to be with you. Patience, Jesus!

Patsy and Carl may have difficulty finding work in Steens Point but it would be good to see them and your idea of having them stay at 617 is a fine one. Keep me informed and it will be good if it works out.

Today's mail also brought a letter from Mother and one from Jim Calbreith - the former chief State Architect. Now to close, take a shower to get some of the dust off of me and then to bed. With this I send my love.

Dad.