

Saigon Vietnam
3 March 1967
Friday Night

My Dear Family -

Friday night and another weekend is coming up - sometimes the weekends is a good way to think in terms of the time here - and my coming home.

This has been an interesting and rather different kind of day. Let me tell you something about it.

Mr. An the manager of the Ly Hotel is being married in March (11th I think) and ~~the~~ so I stopped at the Cholon PX this morning, I had to be in that area anyway, and picked up some things that the team can give as gifts - sheets & towels. We will try to wrap them and make the presentation this next week.

After lunch I had an appointment with Mr. McDonald - the head of aid. He was out of the country when we arrived here in January and while I have had two appointments with him both were canceled. Anyway Wier, LaFollette and I got in to see him this afternoon. He seemed interested in our project - and also indicated that he was well informed of our activities. We talked about 30 minutes and then time was up.

Several times this morning the head of International Volunteers Service (IVS) which is a private corporation but not unlike the peace corps - tried to see me - each time I was out - so I spent part of the afternoon - after the McDonald appointment - trying to run down Don Luce - the IVS man. I couldn't make contact so I came back to the office - 5 minutes after

I got settled in the office Darluc walked in. He has a friend - US has a young man at Hue - I met him when I was there over a month ago - who teaches English at a secondary school and also (the past 2 weeks) has been teaching English at the University of Hue. This week the Embassy ordered US to terminate the teaching at the university - since "all Americans except our team have been ordered to stay away from the university" - US feels that to withdraw is counter to the agreement they have with Hue and further that to withdraw is to ~~break~~ break confidence with the Vietnamese. This morning Mr McDonald asked Luc to withdraw his man (the second time) but Luc felt that the principle is strong enough to stand on and so he told McDonald he would resign and would notify his superiors as well as communicate with the press.

Luc has another appointment with McDonald in the morning but he wants my reaction and advice. I advise openly his position and the stand he has taken and told him that if he believed in what he was doing and the principles behind his stand then he should maintain that position with Mr. McDonald tomorrow. He (Luc) is a fine man - he has been here 6 years and is an "idealist with out illusions". He plans to stay by tomorrow and will let me know the next chapter.

This evening Vince Conroy and I had dinner with Father Tuan the original Rector at Hue - there from 1957

When the University was founded by President Deen until the Overthrow of Deen in 1963. Father's English was not too good but we had an interesting conversation and I hope that we can talk with him again.

Our work is beginning to move again - thanks to Vince and the fact that I took the "bill by the horns" at yesterday's meeting. Vince is going to do the editing and he is good - we are going to try and concentrate on ideas in our discussion tomorrow - and then feed them to him for writing and then typing. Vince has a good mind and he is the best writer in the group. I'll be glad when next Friday comes and the preliminary draft is complete (I hope).

Well - how has your day been? - as usual, I have done all the talking - now I want to listen to each of you and hear about the things that have occupied your time and interests. At least I'll receive listening. Good night now.

Love

Dad.