

Saigon, Vietnam
9 March 1967
Thursday evening

My Dear Family -

The Armed Forces Radio is on and they are now giving the latest in Australian news - given by an Australian. It is interesting - the accent as well as the kinds of things that are said.

Thursday night and the end of the week is in sight. We finished the rough draft of the last section of our preliminary report - tomorrow we will go over it and, if all goes well, will have it to the typist by 5 pm tomorrow night! That means that the first of next week will be given to assembling and distributing the report - then the rest of the week we will visit and re-visit some of the places in and near Saigon that we have either missed or want to see again.

The week following will be spent in going to Can Tho and Hue (as well as here in Saigon) and talking with our Vietnamese counterparts about the report. Then, the week after that - the 27th, we will re-write the report into final draft and plan on a meeting here - April 5th at which time we will distribute the final report!

The tight schedules and the shaping and re-shaping of the project is beginning to show results - I feel good about how things are working out and am anxious to see how the Vietnamese react to our report - that will be the acid test - and give all our work meaning or show that we are in error. We will see.

I mailed two packages at the APO today - they are going air mail so you should be receiving them very soon. The package addressed to you, Jim, you should go ahead and open. It contains a Vietnamese conical hat, the two table clothes I got up at Dalat and also some Hwe candy.

The other package is addressed to Chuck - he can go ahead and open it but be sure you not use it until after I get home! - I remember that when I went to the Philippines Chuck's package was the last one to arrive - and you were very patient about it, Chuck. Perhaps you will be rewarded this time by being first.

When I went down to the USAID main building today I noticed a few rain drops on the windshield of the car. It didn't sprinkle much but that was the first moisture we have had here in Saigon since before Tet. Things seem to survive but they are also very dry and while I hoped it would rain it did not.

I am looking forward to this weekend - the completion of the preliminary report and a chance to just set a schedule as my wishes dictate. On Sunday of course I'll spend a lot of time thinking of Phil's birthday and about what you will be doing.

All along of course I think of each of you - as I am now - and send my love.

Dad.