

Lâm Dong Tea Factory
Bao Loc.

August 17th 1968

Dear Mr. Flanagan,

How are we? I'm sorry not having written to you sooner than this. You know, I meant to write to you more than a month ago, but the work at the factory has kept me so busy that, for a long time now, I haven't written to any of my friends! Isn't that awful? I know that but couldn't help it! Well, I recognize the mistake and I will try to write more often.

Anyhow, I'm going to tell you what I've always meant to let you know:-

- Mr. Andradi (the Ceylonese mechanic) hasn't come yet, I don't know what's holding him up, since I've got all the necessary papers for him i.e. the entry visa. This fact could hold me back a little, I mean I may be a little behind schedule.

- All the machinery in the first floor of the factory have been assembled, it's good to see that, even after many months standing in the rain, all the parts are still in perfect condition. The assembling of the withering troughs (12 of them) was completed a month ago.

- Since the beginning of August, I start opening all the remaining crates + cases to check the contents. I think everyone concerned would be pleased to learn that the machinery are still in good condition. There is negligible damage caused by rust. However the scraping, cleaning and repainting of those

numerous little-rusted spots take a lot of time. Before the end of August, all the cases will have been checked, all the parts cleaned, ready for assembling.

- Besides checking + cleaning the machinery, I am also constructing the big hot air chamber upstairs. I am also conducting a team of about 10 men to make some 250 reinforced concrete posts for the fence of the factory.

With all the work as presented above, you may not be surprised why I haven't written to anyone for a long time!

Mr. Flanagan, I don't know how much to thank you for all the ~~stuff~~ things you sent me a few days ago - my wife is very happy with the sweater, and the meat grinder, the latter saves her a lot of time + troubles in cooking. These are the things we received: 1 meat grinder, 1 bathroom weighing scale, 1 sweater, 1 travelling alarm clock, 1 imitation pearl bracelet, 1 brooch, 1 pair of scissors and a hand level. Mr. Flanagan, I am so grateful to you for having ordered those things for me, would you please let me know the total costs including postage charge? Since I have no U.S. dollars, I hope you do not mind to take Vietnamese piastres.

My wife wishes to thank you very much for getting these things for her. We wish to thank you also for the little parcel you sent me through Mr. Farris the other day. I'm using the Engineer Handbook to work out the concrete for the fence posts at the moment, so you see, it is very useful to me.

Anyway, Mr. Flanagan, I wish to thank you very much for everything you've done and am looking forward to seeing you again. Sincerely yours, Nam Khat

P.S.: I'm also being busy with the Tea Advisory Board, of which I was nominated to be Secretary!!