



Mrs. Blake

Return to STEM.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Headquarters, Far Eastern Area
APO 500
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

16 September 1954

Mr. D. C. Lavergne
STEM
c/o American Embassy
Saigon, Indochina

Dear Mr. Lavergne:

I assume that you will have received my two cables and letter of 15 September from Mr. Scott, Director of our Supply Section regarding shipments on the S.S. Ivor Rita, due to arrive in Saigon 24 September.

The comfort items include:

10,000 each Tooth Brushes
Toothpaste
Pocket combs
Toilet soap
9,000 each Sewing Kits
1,500 each Bath Towels
6,883 each Kit bags .

The total value of these items is \$11,186.47. We regret that there are fewer than the full 10,000 of some items, but it was decided to send what was immediately available. Our national headquarters in Washington has expressed the hope that someday can be found for Vietnam Red Cross volunteers to assist in the distribution of these items to refugees. You will, I am sure, recall from our discussions that one of our primary objectives is to encourage the Society and to provide resources which will aid it in obtaining the recognition of the people of Vietnam and the confidence of the government. In my cable I suggested a contact with Mrs. Frank O. Blake, who for several very critical years of the Korean war was our very efficient director of volunteer activities at this headquarters. At the present time, of course, Mrs. Blake does not officially represent American Red Cross, but because of her experience I believe she might be able to suggest ways in which Vietnam Red Cross could be utilized and that she might also be able, if you desire, to make a contact with Dr. Kieu and the leaders of the Vietnam Red Cross volunteer group. I shall appreciate your writing me about your plans for distribution of these comfort items.

I regret very much any possible inconvenience that may be caused you by the error in consigning the eighteen sewing machines and accessories to you instead of, as had been intended, direct to Vietnam Red Cross. As I had made a definite commitment to Dr. Kieu with respect to this donation, and as he is planning to



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develop a volunteer production program around them, I can only request that you notify him of the arrival of these machines and turn them over to him at your mutual convenience. This cooperation on your part will be greatly appreciated.

I am preparing a report and recommendations to Washington which I hope will result in material assistance to the Vietnam Red Cross both for its participation in the refugee welfare program and for its continued growth.

May I take this opportunity to thank you not only for your helpfulness but also for your hospitality and personal kindness to me and Mr. Almond while we were in Saigon? Without your own guidance and that of your associates in STEM we should have certainly had much greater difficulty in gathering the information and obtaining the advice necessary to the accomplishment of our mission.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

H. L. Janeway
H. L. Janeway
Director of Operations