



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OPERATIONS MISSION
(Special Technical and Economic Mission)
TO CAMBODIA, LAOS AND VIETNAM

AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON, VIETNAM
February 4, 1955.

Status of American Aid Equipment - Haiphong

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With the Captain Olson now on the high seas with thirty one vehicles, the remaining equipment is well defined and extremely limited. I know of only 11 vehicles and what should be contained in less than 200 cases to complete all AEA supplies. The complete list is now in the hands of the French, and we are awaiting approval on these last items with the thought that all the equipment will be out of Haiphong by the end of this month. The five Frigidaires and two washing machines are now in the port area having been picked up at six o'clock this morning by the military surrounded by approximately one hundred troops. I got the Frigidaires as far as the gates of the hospital without incident and could have had them in the port in time for the Olson, but the French refused me exit. The items had been cleared, but the military had not been informed. From now on all items will be delivered to us in the port by the military. I merely provide five days notice to permit them to organize the troop escort.

The American equipment should go without any clearance at all - we simply take it to the boat and load it on with the only stipulation being that it must be shown on the manifest of course.

I will keep you posted on the developments as they come along.