

5W
Personal file
November 30, 1970

Dear Ogie;

Had just addressed your Xmas card, and now find I'd better write a letter too. As you probably know, my Mr. Nguyen Van Sam, who has worked for me for 15 years, is coming to Washington on Jan 20. I'm not sure just what the purpose is but know it is something to do with the Vietnam Training Center.

Sam is one of the very best of our Vietnamese Nationals and has had a much wider work experience background than any of the others. You will find him knowledgeable in nearly all AID programs during the past 15 years and extremely familiar with all of the regions and provinces in the country. Furthermore, I feel that his personal integrity is the highest of any Vietnamese I know.

This trip will be of great value to AID I'm sure and as Sam has a son attending Columbia University, where he is on a scholarship and studying chemical engineering, he will get to see his son. The boy is in his second year at Columbia.

As the financial arrangement are kind of shintey. \$26 per day for the first 21 days and then \$13 for the next 90 days. Coming there in Winter, he will have to buy all new clothing, none of which will be of any use to him here. Knowing how much it costs to live back there and how little Vietnamese salaries are, particularly with 8 children, it will be hard for him to make it if he has to pay too much for hotel bills. I wonder if it would be possible for you to inquire around and see if there isn't some place he could stay which is not so expensive or if he could possibly share expenses with someone else. I would greatly appreciate anything you might be able to do to help him out in this. Sam is really making a sacrifice to accomodate AID in this and I don't want to see him get hurt any more than necessary.

We certainly missed you at Thanksgiving Ogie, and will again at Christmas. Had the same old bunch with a couple of new faces to replace you and Len.

Had a good talk with Bob Zimmerman when he was here. We didn't quite have the 1971 Village Self Development Program nailed down yet but do have now. Sam will be completely familiar with the whole thing. Everything is going pretty well and security is getting much better over most of the country.

Hope you can find time to write and let us know about yourself and what your plans are.

Sincere regards,
Dick Hock, o Minsk
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