

April 23, 1975

Lee Miles, Editor

Here I am in Tent City, Tent H-2,
Clark Field, Philippines. I rescued two
Vietnamese - Nam and her 13 year old
daughter - without having to marry anyone
or assume responsibilities - just
those of spouse - to support financially
until Nam gets a job. She was a crackjack
PAW AM ticket agent, so she should have
to find something. Her daughter is very cute,
polite and helpful. To get this extraordinary
situation in perspective, let me give you some
background. After trying to get a smuggler across
in Vietnam, Laos, without success, I returned
to Bangkok, and on April 18 flew over to Saigon
again, ostensibly to return the same evening.
Meanwhile Nam had written to tell me I was
sent for. I saw her at her office and she was
sick with dread, as were all Vietnamese
who had worked for American firms. She begged
me to stay over, so I cancelled my flight and
placed the reservation out for April 21.
Over the weekend the situation deteriorated.
On the 19 I talked with Nam's American
brother-in-law - a very nice guy named Horley -
who said he was leaving the next day and would
try to take Nam's sister (unmarried) as
well as the other sister who was his wife.
From that I concluded I was at least with a
semblance of hope to get out people to whom I was
not related. So I took the two girls out to the
immense camp that used to be the US military
headquarters in Vietnam.

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You can't imagine the mass of bureaucracy, and the beautiful & harassed US air controllers and others. By last, persistence & sudden energy I got some highly pleasing papers signed which authorized us to fly out. There stood in two hours & got manifested on a flight, then hours more for the flight itself. This took from 8 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. the next morning! At last we took off in the dark in a flying boxcar. no seats. Just sitting in rows on the floor like sardines in a tin can. Gas for 4 1/2 hours and we landed in Clark Field at about 8 a.m. After more waiting we processed through more shelves and loads of new US volunteer women who handed out water & cookies & we were bussed to this open tent-city where I now am. The weather is superb. I selected a lot of the end of the tent and find it more comfortable than the Natchez and no mosquitoes. Yesterday today spent in processing my charges thru endless red tape. Just at the end of it, ~~was~~ informed that all processing is being stopped and we will all be shipped to Guad to do the same thing over again. But this time I have all the papers and photos and fingerprints and it should be easier. This really has been an extraordinary experience. One sees human nature under great stress, and when things get really rough, people betray rather subtle qualities. Patients after 2 days without sleep. Fewer hold themselves after the initial selfish reaction is over. Sense of humor, etc.

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at the moment my main upset is we left
behind Nam's 7-year old son with his
grandmother who will take him out of Saigon
to the countryside. One hopes that this age he will
be spared, but we are worried. In Bao Dai's time the
male children of Vietnamese army officers were
generally killed, so they would be no trouble when
they grew up, while the females were spared,
presumably to bear good Communists in later
years. The United States had better wake up.
The policy of containing Communism worked for
25 years, and what's happening now under
"defence" is certainly no improvement.
Cambodia is already gone, Laos will go soon.
Thailand will go or be neutralized. Malaysia
and Singapore must be sweating blood. The
Communists are expansionist and they will
seize what they can. And any time they
take one more of the world, it shakes it that
much harder to messen the rest. There is
a sea barrier protecting Indonesia, the
Philippines, Taiwan and Japan. I suspect we
better hold it, and already the Soviet navy
is stronger than ours. Someday Americans
could be faced with what the South Vietnam
now face, and then we will realize what it's
all been about. On purely material grounds
we may realize I would have been easier and
cheaper to use our aircraft to stop the North
Vietnamese advance when I would have been
easy to do so, rather than accept a totally
hostile Southeast Asia which we will now have to
accept for years to come. We have had such

as easy and automatic place is to see that
we have totally forgotten such places in the
new analysis, by force or
the threat of force. The total ruthlessness of the
Communist in Southeast Asia, and the victimization
of millions of people who had the same
aspirations toward freedom and prosperity
that we do, may teach us something - that
the model is dangerous and the weak can
not rely on the goodness of the strong for aid.

In Clark Field we can at least see the
presence of the old American "imperialism".
I must say it looks good and I wish we had
more of that old spirit to fill some of the
vacuums of the world with decency instead of
abandoning them to the indecencies of the
Communists. Either we assert our ideals or
others will assert theirs. If what we want is
only beer and TV and its "comfortable" life,
we will not have even that in the long run.
At least it seems from Text 14-2, Text
City, Clark Field.

But,

Bydew.