

Vientiane, Laos
March 27, 1967

Dear Folks,

It is one of those slow days at the office, so I thought I would take advantage of the time and drop you a line. One of the reasons it is a slow day is because the schools are closed even though USAID is not. We also had a day off last Thursday for Lao Armed Forces Day.

This morning, I mailed two packages home. One was some post-cards, slides and some money that I picked up in Europe last summer, and the other one was a Thai wood carving from Chiang Mai. You may or may not like it.

I finally received the cookies that you sent for Somyoung. They had been missent to several places and in most places they had looked at his name and simply sent it on with the note that no one with that name working with such and such mission. I was glad it had been marked up because you had sent it to Somyoung in care of me which is against APO rules and could have cost me my APO priviledges. We just had a similar case about two weeks ago and the APO people sent the person involved a rather curt letter.

In checking the school vacation schedule, I see that we have from April 8th to the 20th off for Lao New Year. I had thought about going to Luang Prabang for a couple of days, but have just about decided to go elsewhere. Several of the IVS'ers are going to Singapore during the holidays. There is a Pam American Special that permits one to go from Bangkok to Phom Phen to Saigon to Hong Kong to Manila to Bali to Jakarta and back to Bangkok for something like \$270. The only catch is that you have to do all of the traveling within 30 days and you have to ride Pan Am and one other airline as much as possible. I also heard the other day that if we get a letter from the Director of USAID stating that we are working at a isolated hardship post, we can ride the Air Force Planes free. This would allow me to go from Bangkok to Manila to Okinawa to Singapore and back free. All I have to do is get the letter.

Sunday morning we went to International Church for Easter Services. Sunday afternoon, I went to the airport to meet a new IVS'er and then attended a dinner for him Sunday evening. He just finished a two year tour in Africa with the Peace Corps.

You may have read in the papers where one of the IVS/RD volunteers was killed last week. He was working out in the country side near Savannakhet in South Central Laos. The Phatet Lao came into the village early in the morning and killed him. This makes one IVS'er in Vietnam and one in Laos that has been killed by the communist. This is not too bad considering that we have had about 300 volunteers in the two countries for several years now. I hope we don't lose any more.

I guess I will close for now and start thinking about the basketball game that we have tonight.

Love,
Larry