

Saigon - Saturday 10 August

John —

...here's another pack et of goodies courtesy of Bob McKerrig, who says he'll be up to Kontum for a visit in a couple days. The outer wrapper is for Marion — a while ago she'd asked me to get some large filing cards, which I am unable to find here in Saigon. Next best way of filling her requisition is by sending on this heavy paper — she can get it cut down to size at the Kuenod printing shop, and should be able to get six cards per sheet. Sorry I couldn't find the exact item — if I do spot some before taking off next weekend, I'll leave them with CARE for delivery. Will also leave left-over cash plus a final breakdown on finances there; so far I'm accountable for 50,000 that was taken from funds in Kontum, 50,000 drawn from CRS for purchase of medicines, and 189,730 drawn from CARE as reimbursement for labor on the pigbarn. At the rate I'm going through it there won't be much left.... Am enclosing also the old notebook I've used to keep track of expenses; might as well keep it on hand just as a record, and when I get back I can pick up where I left off. There are a bunch of other miscellaneous items including a few letters, most of them you can file away. Notice that COREV has sent an authorization slip for 1,240,000 to be used for trucking & oxygen (I thought it was going to be a bit more, but they subtract a commission for administration fees). As I suggested before, maybe you could use this to pay back our debt for the last truckload of rice if there's not enough left over from the last batch of general funds sent up with George — Father McVeigh will have it cabled up to Pat soon as possible, and you should be getting an arrival notice through the local mail.

...by now you should have gotten the sinks plus five cartons of meds. from Phu Tho — I fished out what seemed to be the most interesting items that were waiting delivery at the warehouse there (daraprim, thermometers, thorazine etc.) and the rest will be coming by truck later — they said they were going to send ~~it~~ on (mostly IV's) by CLA truck to Saigon Nha Trang beginning of next week. I'm trying to put together a truckload to send up next week too — it'll come up by Kim Thai (price = 130,000\$) and will include ten large oxygen bottles; MCC beef, soap, blankets from VNCS; possibly some hospital beds from the CRS warehouse, plus PL-480 food items. Word has come through that route 19 is open again, so we should get the show on the road in a few more days.

...Phyllis had sent down a list of medicines to pick up with Kerry — I can't find all the items requested (e.g. the stores here have 2% lidocaine but not 4%, also there was no need to get daraprim as Phu Tho had a batch for us already), but sent up with Kerry some Kanamycin plus all the gentamycin I could find. Since then I've located another store that stocks gentamycin and am sending up seven more bottles, plus some prostaphlin. All of this stuff is terribly expensive — 2090\$ for a bottle of gentamycin, 1395\$ for kanamycin, 110\$ per capsule for prostaphlin — so I've purchased relatively small amounts, using mainly the CRS funds (50,000) that had originally been designated for pediatric medicines. I know the gentamycin is particularly in demand, and rather hard to find — in case you need another quick supply, the next person who comes to Saigon can pick some up at the pharmacy on TuDo street next to the French bookstore across from the Continental Palace hotel.

...Randy's expense chits are enclosed — like the rest of us, there's a bit of difference between itemized expenses and actual income — but nobody keeps books with 100% accuracy, which is why it's handy to have an 'other expenses' category. Hope things are going well in the anthropology department, and that the questionnaires prove to be useful (the secretary — Miss Thuy — at CARE really put in a lot of overtime getting them finished).

I'll leave my final breakdown on expenses along with any left-over funds at the CARE office. Incidentally they do not have that envelope with the 27,000 p's that was left there a while ago by Kerry — guess we have to strike this off our list of assets and mark it up as 'other expenses'.

Regards — see you in a couple months...

Bill