

Saigon - Tuesday 13 August

Pat —

...Kerry mentioned that you're in the market for a fifteen to twenty KW generator. I saw Mr. Truong Nghia the contractor the other day and he came up with the attached set of prices and specifications and two which he has available. They both seem pretty expensive (the Kato is brand new, the English one is slightly used) — however not having seen the items in question I didn't do any haggling and maybe he would come down a bit. Bear in mind that purchase of a generator is covered in our Caritas-Austria grant, of which we've only drawn 5,000,000 piasters or about 40% at this point; so, if you do send someone down to pick up a machine he could probably arrange to have it paid for by a check issued from CRS and drawn against the remainder of our Caritas funds, as long as there's an explanatory letter from you to Fr. McVeigh authorizing the withdrawal. Unfortunately Skiff is off in Singapore at the moment, he would make an ideal technical consultant — whoever comes down later on (John?) to look into it, maybe you could put him in touch (Skiff ought to be back next week).

...I spoke with Mrs. Lien yesterday about CRS's child-nutrition program, contradictory to what Fr. McVeigh had said earlier she says that they will not insist on really long-term treatment of malnourished children as long as they are getting a special diet for whatever length of time they stay in hospital. She says that children up through age eleven would qualify. I suggest that you start keeping records on patients in this age group who are getting special dietary attention as of the beginning of August, then talk it over with Mrs. Lien & Fr. McVeigh when you next come to Saigon.

...Brother Bernard of the Sacred Heart Hospital says that when the Caritas 2-year nursing school opens, it will exclude male students. In fact he says none of the gov't 3-year schools are admitting men now as the MOH has had too much frustration in training 3-year nurses and then having them grabbed up by the Army. He says that Sacred Heart will eventually (say within a couple years) be forced to open a 3-year course of their own to accommodate some of their own brothers — and he also reminds us at Minh Quy to bear in mind that their own 1-year course will be open again next May, and that we ought to start lining up candidates to be tested early next year.

...Could you get together with Ed & George et al. and go over the checklist of medical supplies that I gave to Ed about 2 months ago for editing — I had hoped to get it to you as a guideline for KHF's medical procurement but it didn't get done in time. It might be a useful thing to present to Church World Service or Catholic Relief in making inquiries about medical supply in New York. Could you mail it on to my home address?

Regards. We're leaving next Friday  
and ought to be back in around  
2 months.

Bill