

426 Owen Road - Wynnewood, Pa. 19086 - USA

29 July

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Baker,

I am a former colleague of Edric's at Minh Quy Hospital and, having just received your address from Marion Brown, I thought I would send a letter with the little information that is available. Although I'd left Minh Quy on an extended furlough some six months before the evacuation of the hospital and was not a witness to that series of events, I've remained actively concerned about the welfare of Edric and Dr. George Christian; and at the suggestion of the Kontum Hospital Fund have tried to explore ways & means of establishing contact with Kontum, or at least getting news. Thus far it hasn't been very rewarding, but I am still hoping that as time goes by sources in Paris or Geneva may be able to get through and report on what is going on. The New Zealand Consul in New York states that there was an article in one of the Auckland newspapers to the effect that Edric was in Quang Tri as of May first — no other information was given, but if this is true then it suggests that he (and possibly George too) may have been pressed into government service to assist with medical work outside the Highlands: as dedicated as Edric was to Minh Quy Hospital and the Montagnards, I doubt that he would have left them of his own volition. A letter just received from a friend in France — a nurse who worked at Minh Quy several months before the final offensive and who is now back in Paris — tells of her meeting recently with another French nurse who had been caught in Ban Me Thuot at the time of the offensive and only returned to France via Saigon several weeks ago. She writes, 'It was reported that Ed & George were in a working camp (sic) near Pleiku, but she knows nothing more.' Therese goes on to say that she will write again as soon as she gets further news via Geneva — I had asked if she would approach the PRC representatives in Paris directly, but she was advised not to do this on the grounds that it could possibly be detrimental to Edric & George (she didn't explain how). If there is any further news from Therese or other sources in this area (the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, is located nearby in Philadelphia and they have connections & personnel in South Vietnam; as do the Mennonites, also based nearby) I shall certainly let you know post-haste.

I recall a conversation with an American doctor who'd been working at another up-country location and who'd been faced with decision of whether to remain or to evacuate at the time of the offensive. He told me his choice to leave was based on his knowledge of happenings during and after the Communist takeover of North Vietnam in 1954: according to reports the international medical personnel who remained behind in that situation were not allowed to perform in their medical roles, but were kept in detention areas and released after several months to return to their own countries.

Wherever Edric may be at this time I hope he's been able to continue working. Personally I feel that there's every reason to believe he will be well-treated and accepted by the powers-that-be: his character & personality, his medical ability and good reputation among the common people of Kontum; his knowledge of written & spoken Vietnamese; and his personal religious faith — all of these things will be working in his favor I'm sure, and whether or not he is permitted to carry on at Minh Quy I have every hope that he and George will emerge from the present situation in sound condition. It may provide some solace to know that another of the Minh Quy staff who stayed behind — Kerry Heubeck, an animal husbandry specialist sponsored by C.A.R.E. — is reported to be well physically & mentally according to a message sent out via Paris, and is working with the International Red Cross. Let's hope that all goes as well as possible for all the foreigners who stayed back in Vietnam voluntarily or otherwise, and that we'll be hearing from them soon!

THE BRYN MAWR HOSPITAL
BRYN MAWR, PA.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL STAFF

June 9, 1975

A Special Meeting of the Medical Staff of The Bryn Mawr Hospital was held in the Pennypacker Auditorium on Monday, June 9, 1975 at 8:30 p.m. The meeting was called by Dr. John E. Strang, President of the Staff, to discuss the current "malpractice crisis."

Dr. Strang reported that representatives of twelve area hospitals attended a meeting at Paoli Memorial Hospital on Monday, June 2, 1975. At that meeting a resolution was proposed calling for a simultaneous "slowdown" on June 16 and 17, 1975, and again on June 26 and 27, 1975, in order to emphasize to the community the urgency of the situation in malpractice insurance and to seek public support in obtaining affirmative legislative action.

Dr. Strang further noted that the Board of Directors of this Hospital has formally indicated its unanimous support of the Staff in the current crisis and that the members of the Board are willing and anxious to do anything within their power to support the Staff in this problem. It was also pointed out that a "slowdown" could create a major fiscal problem for the Hospital. Dr. Strang added that the Pennsylvania Medical Society has not officially condoned "slowdowns" as a means of public demonstration.

Considerable discussion followed from the floor in which various aspects of the "malpractice situation" and all of the potential legislative action were discussed. It was the consensus of the Staff that a "slowdown" at this time would probably create unnecessary hardship to the patient, and would do nothing to further the image of the physicians in this community. It was repeatedly emphasized that direct appeal to patients, and particularly those in a position of potential political influence, would be far more likely to achieve a positive influence in the legislature.

The proposed resolution regarding a "slowdown" was unanimously defeated by a voice vote of the Staff. A second resolution, proposed by Dr. Harold J. Robinson and seconded by Dr. J. Curtis Lamp, expressed the Staff's favor of a direct appeal to the public in personal conversation and local newspaper advertisements as a means of enlisting public support in achieving some solution to the "malpractice" situation, as well as to encourage the defeat of House Bill 853/Senate Bill 10 (Comprehensive Health Care Act) concerning State regulation of health care costs.

(Formerly Administrator
of this Hospital)

After further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon L. Tobias, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer of the Staff

If you'd like to communicate directly with the French nurse who failed to
me the news about Marie's being in Vietnam, her name & address are:
Marie, French Franc - 134 rue Legendre - 75017 Paris, France.
She said in her letter that it would help her pursue her inquiries via Geneva
if she had more biographical data on Marie: e.g. birth date, time of arrival
in Vietnam, home address, etc.
I'll be sure to send off any further news
I get from the French nurse.