

5 July

Dear Therese,

Thanks much for your letter — I hope that by this time you will have heard from Melba Badders (she is a Mrs. !) with the information you requested in order to transmit to Geneva (all of the biographical data would be in the Kontum Hospital Fund office in Seattle I hope). However let us hope that by this time further inquiries will not be necessary — who knows, perhaps by now our missing friends are even on their way out? The reason for my optimism is that just after writing to you I had a letter from Kerry's mother, who said she had been contacted several times by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, and they reported that Kerry was working for them. Kerry later managed to get a message out via Parisstating that he was together with his wife and stepson; they were reported in good condition. I got the name and address of a man in the U.S. State Department in Washington a few days after this, a man who specializes in locating missing Americans in Vietnam — this man told me over the phone that efforts were being made by the Vietnamese government to get all the foreigners out, and that one plane load (with no Americans) had already arrived in Bangkok. Other trips were expected in the near future, and they were very hopeful in Washington that Americans would be able to get out soon (and of course in Kerry's case, his wife & child too). They already knew about Kerry & Dr. George Christian (but not about Edric, as they do not keep information on non-Americans). One very encouraging thing he said about George was that he had registered with the International Red Cross, and as of 17 June was in Kontum. This is very reassuring, because it suggests that earlier reports about Edric being in Quang Tri (the New Zealand Consul said this) and your friend Claudine's report about both of them being in a work camp near Pleiku, were mistaken. In fact the man in Washington was very dubious about Claudine's information; he thought that ~~in fact~~ it was another group of people — American missionaries and government workers — who were interned in the Pleiku location, not George & Edric. So, all in all, because of these two recent contacts with Mrs. Heubeck and the man in Washington, I am very encouraged about our missing people. But I don't know what to think about the hospital: who is running it, what news from the nuns and local nurses, how the patients are existing. In the American newspapers there are occasional reports about Saigon and Danang, but never anything about life in the Highlands. I just hope the our friends the Montagnards have been able to return to their old villages and ricefields to live in peace... Do you by any chance have any contact with the Mission de Paris? Or have you heard of Bishop Seitz through any other sources? I know that he is said to be still in Kontum, but I worry about his health and his capability to continue working under the new government... .

Well as you can see our gov't has totally messed up our affairs in Indochina, and the only good things that may come out of this are that 1) U.S. foreign policy-makers may learn from their mistakes, 2) IndoChinese may be better off left to their own devices without so much foreign interference. I hope that both these suppositions will be true, but it is too early to say....

I'm glad to hear you plan to come visit the States, and if I'm still here when you come over next year I would be delighted to get together. Please let me know what your general itinerary will be as soon as you have some ideas about it, and which places in particular you want to see — Again, thanks for your letter and stay in touch —

Best,

CHANGING TIMES CENTER

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