

23 June

Hi Phyllis — I was sorry to hear in your letter from Vientiane that the outlook there is so negative for getting back to VN. It must be quite frustrating for you to be constantly waiting without any really substantial support from either quarter — i.e. from your sponsorship in the States as well as from the Vietnamese diplomatic officials. I can sympathize with your ambivalence under the circumstances about whether to keep on waiting in hopes of an eventual return, or just go back home where you know there's work to be done. The longer you wait, the harder it must be; I just hope your patience (and your resources) hold out until you can get definitive word as to whether a return to Kontum is possible... I've had letters from Marion & Therese since I last wrote you — and from Kerry's mother too — and I'll pass on the news:

Mrs. Heubeck writes that they've heard about Kerry through the International Committee of the Red Cross, who are now Kerry's employers in Saigon — he's living in their compound, is said to be in fine shape mentally & physically. Later word came to Mrs. Heubeck via a message sent out to Jeff Sanders (remember him?) by way of Paris, in which Kerry said that he was together with H'Cham and her son in Saigon. Mrs. Heubeck herself is hesitant about approaching the PRG officials about further information for fear this might jeopardize Kerry, but really sounded relieved to have any news at all about him (as I am too!) I guess they really have a tight control over written communication getting out of Saigon, otherwise why would Kerry have to have a message delivered out via Paris? At any rate if he's working for the Red Cross he's in the best possible hands, and I just hope that eventually things work out so that he & his family will be able to leave...

Marion hasn't made any breakthrough in terms of contacting Edric & George although she continues trying through various channels. She herself is looking over various job prospects in nursing there in Invercargill, but I'm sure would be eager to return to Kontum if the opportunity presented itself. The best contact in her part of the world is the Yugoslav Embassy in Wellington. According to Marion they appear to be more co-operative than the N. Vietnamese officials you describe in Vientiane — but Yugoslavs are a basically friendly people to begin with, maybe they're just raising false hopes among the various NZ volag people who want to go back. The new VN gov't is starting to seem somewhat inscrutable, but I have hopes that eventually they'll open the doors so that foreigners can come & go & communicate freely.... Marion sends a couple of addresses; John Havican is at 301 Blochuber Avenue, Marquette, Michigan 49855; Senia Simandjuntak is at P.O. Sinchutar, Tarutung, Sumatra, Indonesia. She also gives addresses for Cliff, Edric's parents (I've just written), Bernadette O'Neill (who also wants to get back overseas). Guess we ought to start a Minh Quy Foreign Staff Newsletter with Marion as editor-in-chief...?

Therese writes from Paris that she's been advised against approaching the PRG delegates there on behalf of Ed, George & Kerry because this wouldn't be good for them — so instead she is writing to the International Red Cross in Geneva (ICRC has probably already tried that route by now). Therese goes on to say, "Clouding one of the nurses in Ben Me Thuot and who was taken by the VC came back from Saigon two weeks ago. I met her last week. It was reported that Ed & George were in a working camp near Pleiku, but she knows nothing more..."

So, to say the least, there still seems to be a lot of uneasiness about what's going on with foreigners in Vietnam. Not to mention the local people, and the Minh Qu indigenous stuff in particular...

In spite of your advice to the contrary I think I ought to pay part of the bill that was left by Pankleko at the Bangkok Y, seeing as he did give a large amount of help & support to Huong when she really needed it. I really have to thank him for that, no matter how irresponsible he may be about paying debts. On the other hand I'm more & more apprehensive about his dragging Huong & Hoang off to Hanoi in hopes they can continue eventually on to the U.S.. It is a hard-headed idea and I still cannot see Huong coming back here — she's written finally, has the same old vindictive attitudes & mores: so a return to the States would just be recreating the old situation with all the attendant unhappiness. Regardless of how angry she may feel about everything I'm concerned about her remaining there

A more detailed report will be presented to the Staff after the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 1975. The President reported that he would appoint an Audit Committee to review the Treasurer's report.

Dr. Heggstad reported that an effort is now being made to select a suitable bank in which to place part of the sum in the Staff Checking Account in an interest bearing account.

Dr. Heggstad expressed his appreciation to the members of the Staff for their excellent cooperation and support of the Hospital's Improvement Fund, to which they pledged almost \$700,000. He also expressed his thanks to Drs. John J. McGraw, Jr. and William C. Stainback, who served with him as representatives of the Medical Staff on the Campaign Steering Committee.

Dr. Heggstad thanked the Staff members who have been serving on committees during the current year and asked them to continue to function until the newly appointed committees assume their duties beginning July 1, 1975. He also thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their help and cooperation during the year, including Drs. Eric A. Corkhill, Jr., Robert M. Fisher and Edward A. Theurkauf, Jr. who have just completed their two year terms of service on that Committee and Dr. Kent F. Balls who has been serving on the Committee in his capacity as Director of Emergency and Out-Patient Services. While this position is being discontinued at the end of the current fiscal year, Dr. Balls will continue in his capacity as Chief of the Service of Endocrinology.

Dr. Heggstad then mentioned that in recent years the Staff Committees have greatly increased their usefulness toward fulfilling their obligation to provide good patient care. Expansion of many of the Committees to include members of the Administration, Board of Directors, Nursing Staff, House Staff and Hospital Departments has developed a closer working relationship and better understanding between all groups of the Hospital Family. Dr. Heggstad further stated that from his observation it was his firm belief that the Executive Committee truly represents the entire Staff.

Dr. Heggstad then announced the election of the following officers and the members elected to the Executive Committee for the coming year, as proposed by the Nominating and Tellers Committee at the March meeting of the Staff and elected at that meeting:

President	John E. Strang, M.D.
Vice President	Harold A. Rowland, M.D.
Immediate Past President	Gilman E. Heggstad, M.D.
Executive Committee -	F. Thomas Hopkins, M.D.
Two-year term 1975-77	Bruce D. Hopper, M.D.
	Samuel S. Lyness, M.D.

Dr. Heggstad then turned the meeting over to Dr. John E. Strang, who expressed his appreciation for the honor of being elected President of the Staff and said that he hoped there would be continued cooperation and communication between the officers and other members of the Medical Staff.

Upon motion the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. Refreshments and a social hour were then enjoyed by the Staff.

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

in Hanoi, and my last letters to Pavlenko (who doesn't answer) have contained suggestions to the effect that if they do feel obligated to continue traveling as they are presently, that they give some thought to settling down for a while on an ashram in India — so a hope that Nhung would be able to reassess things and come up with a more positive attitude. I had the impression from you that Pavlenko was going to try and help her with some of her anti-social tendencies, but her letters are extremely spiteful and I gather she's still the same old Nhung. For as long as she stays hooked up with the Pavlenkos I guess the only way to transmit financial help is through him — this isn't ideal but I don't see any other way...

So many people's lives are so very dislocated these days. The other day had a phone call from Seattle — a Montagnard being sponsored as a refugee by Pat, turns out to be a fellow named 'Vuit' whom I'd known back in Dak To! And now he's adjusting to life in the States; he's a fairly sophisticated person with a good command of English, and I think he'll make it. Better than most Vietnamese in fact... Got together with Father McVeigh (ex-CRS) two weekends ago — he's been visiting his old Saigon employees at various refugee camps in the States, they will all be employed by Catholic Conference to assist in the refugee program. And for the most part are apparently glad to have evacuated. Wonder how the old VNCS staff are making out back in Saigon & elsewhere?

DR. PAT SMITH'S

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