

CONFIDENTIAL

File - personal

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

Dear Rufe:

It seems like things are not any better down your way than ^{before} up here. It is probably only the rains that are giving us some calm. We have gone through several stages on the village development and security program, and are about ready to baptize it with a name. We will probably call it the Mu Ban Samaki program, which means villages cooperating together for progress. We have now gone through two drafts of a fairly comprehensive treatment of this program, and hope soon to have an airgram ready for Washington. At this time, we will certainly include you on distribution. I have been heading up a committee appointed by the Ambassador, including all Country Team elements, in preparing this paper. This morning Phouml gave his blessing on the areas which we have chosen for our first projects. This should be a big help.

I'm very sorry to be so long delayed in getting an answer to you about the two O.B. nurses. It was all set, and then we had the sad and very stupid shooting of one of the O.B. employees, Mr. Natividad, in front of the Morning Market. As you probably read, the PL apparently tried to cause a ruckus and get an over-reaction from the FAR, or else prevent Souvanna from going to Paris. In any event, a nervous soldier, for no reason at all, shot the Filipino and he died that afternoon. After this, O.B. decided they had better get clearance from Manila before they let the two nurses go to Saigon. This has now been approved, and you can send the tickets, or the money, directly to O.B. They are ready to go and understand that they will be down there approximately one month.

Thank you very much for your help on BV-33. I circulated your helpful memorandum of conversation, and have read the recent messages. It appears everything is well in hand. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that a C-46 flying supplies in there recently was shot down not far from Tchepone, and we still do not know the number of survivors.

The sweet potatoes seem to be doing well, and that operation went off very successfully. My best regards to you and Barbara.

Sincerely,

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals.
Declassified after 12 years.

Leroy S. Wehrle
Deputy Director

Mr. Rufus Philips
Assistant Director for Rural Development
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