

August 16, 1963

Mr. Oscar Arellano  
P. Guevara  
San Juan, Rizal  
Philippines

Dear Oscar:

Sorry to be so long in answering your letter about the ducks, pigs and President Diem. As was told you by Bo, I did take it up with the President. He seemed interested, but due to other events consuming his attention, of which you are probably aware from the newspapers, I have been unable to do any more.

In the meantime, however, Barbara and I paid a brief visit to Laos. We found Operation Brotherhood in good shape and I was not only happy to see them again but also very pleased to see so many old hands still there. The constructive and positive attitude towards OB on the part of Charlie Mann and Roy Wehrle in USOM was also particularly encouraging.

As Vitoy may have written you, Barbara developed an idea of bringing a couple of OB girls to Vietnam for a month's time to assist in training a group of Vietnamese social workers and nurses working in the Cap St. Jacques area. This is a private effort to be financed by Barbara and the Rural Affairs wives along with Mr. Bui, a Vietnamese businessman who pays for and directs the work of the Vietnamese girls.

I have written to Roy Wehrle requesting his approval of the release of 2 OB girls for a month's time to do this training. Barbara has raised the necessary funds. Pending Wehrle's agreement, what I need is your approval of this project. This is sort of sneaking OB in through the backdoor but I believe it will rebound to the credit of OB and may provide the basis for something larger in the future. Mr. Bui's operation, incidentally, is supported wholeheartedly by the President.

If you agree with this proposal, I would appreciate it if you would so cable to Vitoy, so that the girls may come. I can assure you that I will look after their welfare here personally, have investigated the various angles of this and believe it will make a positive contribution all the way around.

When current problems quiet down, I hope I can get back to the ducks and pigs. In the meantime, with warmest regards from Barbara and myself,

Sincerely,

Rufus C. Phillips