

John,
Just received a copy of your letter to Dr. Brille dated
June 11, 72 - Dr. B. is going to have a meeting with
some of the more important members of the board, i.e. none of
the dotting old rich ladies, Pat and myself tomorrow evening
to consider some of your suggestions.

Normally I would wait until after the meeting to write but the main thing I want to write about does not concern the meeting but rather ~~the~~ your letter and some of the strategies for accomplishing what you have outlined - First, if you are going to wait for the concurrence of Pat and/or the Board, I think (perhaps the meeting will prove me false) you will be a very old man on the day that Mink-Org moves back to its original ~~site~~ site - The board is really a weird collection of individuals and how or why they continue to take the shit from Pat that they do ~~and receive~~ is beyond my imagination - What I am saying is that most of the board's energy is expended in intermural bickering and/or trying to keep itself together despite this tension - The only reason I can see that it is still together is because the people are convinced that Mink-Org Hospital is doing good things and they don't want to lose face by quitting - The most MPT is third good deed - And Pat really doesn't know which way she wants to go either - I know she wants the hospital to keep running, but I think she is a bit apprehensive about planning on it - and she is in a place in her life where she has to plan a few things - So what does this all add up to - quite simply that this is not the place to look for direction - The place to look is right in your own shoes

It took an old grizzly Army sergeant to teach me that when you are running in show you can do just about anything you want to ~~at~~ the board is wide open ~~the~~ next move is yours - just make it a good one

You had the Audacity to stay when everyone else left - ~~to~~ you are the director of Minh-Duy Hospital - why not use the same audacity to give the hospital some direction

So if you are sure that moving the hospital needs to be done, do it ~~if~~ if you have to tell the Montagnards that ~~Pat~~ said it is what she wants and you have to tell Pat it's what the staff wants - do it - realize that you are taking responsibility for what happens and if it fucks up - well that's part of responsibility too - But what ~~can~~ people (Pat) do after the hospital is set up and functioning - move it back to Kontum - I doubt it

I don't know how you will take what I have written - in many ways it sounds like someone sitting home safe and fat telling someone else to risk their ass - it sounds that way because that is essentially what it is - but it also an attempt to bring something to your attention that I think you may not have thought of - namely that if you are willing to take the responsibility you can try nearly anything that you want - trying doesn't imply success, but it does imply responsibility

One final word - in my experience of working with Pat it is much easier to explain why you did something after it is done before you start - ~~for example~~ example, she did not know about moving the tents to the back of the hospital until one day she looked up and saw they weren't there any more - she never said a word except ~~that~~ that the place looked better ~~with~~ after the tents were moved ~~she~~ Shirley told me that she had suggested setting up tents for her O.D. ward in back a couple of months earlier - and Pat told her that ~~some~~ ~~land~~ ~~belonged~~ didn't belong to the school so we couldn't use it -

Don't waste your time proposing and trying to convince either the KHF or Pat. I do it and then report that it has been accomplished.

I am certain that a letter saying not "Subject to, of course to the wishes of Pat, the following actions are prepared?" but, "Last week we: —" would receive a better reception.

Obviously laboring the point and possibly remarking it simply to hear myself write.

So again an apology for sending nothing more than advice useless as it may be. Again I hope you are not pissed off and can find something of value in this letter.

Say hello to everyone for me - good luck

Don