

July 30, 1972

Dear John, Tom, Susan, Rita and Barbara:

Duplicates of this letter are being sent to each of you since I want to insure that one or more copies reach you as soon as possible. It has been some time since I last wrote and likewise since we have heard directly from over there.

Yesterday I had lunch with Dr. Smith. She had scheduled her departure for Vietnam for Monday, 31 July, but was forced to cancel it. She must make some new arrangement for care of Det and Wir. There are two possibilities.

1. Place them in the care of some friend in the midwest. This would require taking them there and getting them settled - one month I would guess.

2. Obtaining U.S. passports for them and bringing them back to Vietnam with her. They currently have Vietnamese passports and Dr. Smith is understandably reluctant for them to return to Vietnam without the assurance that they could return to the U. S. Obtaining a U. S. passport would require they become U. S. citizens - a complicated business. Dr. Smith guesses a minimum of one month; I would guess several.

I would guess she will probably follow option #2. I am very sympathetic with Dr. Smith at this time when she feels the conflicting pulls of maternal responsibility and the commitment to her work in Vietnam. I feel that you should be aware of the situation here.

In view of the present situation I have considered returning to Vietnam for a one month tour. From several standpoints this is not an ideal time for me to do this, and I would consider it only if I have a clear opinion from you on the field that this would serve a significant purpose in helping to preserve the function of Minh-Quy. Since arrangements would take about one month I would appreciate hearing from one or more of you as soon as possible. Incidentally, the possibility of my going to Vietnam should be kept confidential for the time being.

Life goes on as busy as ever here. The practice is moderately demanding. Our son and family are visiting. I see or talk to Glen periodically. He is quite a serious student judging on the basis that he turned down chess, tennis and dinner here today in favor of studying for an upcoming test. Barbara Heinl was in town this weekend. We talked to her by phone but were not able to get together. We had a young couple from India as dinner guests tonight. They are both M.D.'s. He is taking a residency in Physical Medicine at the U. of W. It was very interesting to hear his views on "One World" medicine.

Despite our failure to write we think of you often. The KHF meets next week and I will try to promote some more cookies and goodies.

Best Wishes,

*Lauris*