

File

Pleiku
22 August 1972

Dear Dr. McElmeal:

Thank you for your recent letter. Yours must be a nearly impossible job, with the current deemphasis on Vietnam. I can well appreciate your lack of reliable information via the news media. I am afraid this letter will not help your dilemma very much, though, but I'll try to define our needs as ~~xx~~ I see them at this time.

The current status of our Kontum and Pleiku operations are summarized in my latest letter to Dr. Braile, copy enclosed. I am sending him the negatives of my Vietnam photo collection, for public relations purposes as necessary. The intent in taking the pictures was personal interest, and composition is not particularly suited for advertising, but feel free to use the ones you can. I'm sure that others on the present and former staff can also provide photographic material. If slides are needed, my parents have my Vietnam collection, and will loan them to you if you send them a copy of this letter. Please pass the word to whoever finds himself in the chain handling these items, that they are currently among my most prized possessions, and that scrupulous caring for them is expected.

Minh-Quy's needs, as you mentioned, are extensive and varied. We are however, witnessing a unique time in Vietnam. With the departure of numerous military units, virtually everything we need is available by scrounging. American military, further, have given a great deal of their time and resources in providing badly needed services. Our actual needs for funds, now, are limited to salaries, and the figures required were sent to KHF several months ago. The present time of plenty, unfortunately, is destined to be followed by a profound drop in supplies locally available, and we are trying to stockpile now. I would imagine that the best approach for stateside fund raising would be quite similar, *vis.*, is to build the fund back up. As bad as things may be ~~now~~, they won't be getting any better. I do not know the state of our account with the Bishop or with CRS in Saigon. So far, we have just had to ask for funds, and have received no word of impending poverty. Maybe Pat could check this on her way through. We are using piastres now at the rate of about 500,000 per month.

As quite a number (maybe 20,000) of Montagnards will still be refugees during the relatively cold winter months, a clothing drive would be quite helpful. Could this be coordinated along with Pennies for Pat? As always, the Western staff is packed up by "care packages." Special favorites are hot chocolate ~~xx~~ nuts, coffee, and tea.

Hope this answers most of your questions; thanks for your interest.

Sincerely yours,