

File

Minh-Quy Hospital
c/o MACV Team 41
APO, In Country 96499

9/6/72

Dear Dr. Oldham:

As fighting here in the Highlands seems to have reached a lull for the moment, we are able to sit back (for the first time in the last six months) and reflect on the significance of recent events. Paramount, I think, is the role played by the Montagnard staff of Minh-Quy Hospital.

Although many people, even officials here in the Highlands, are unaware of the fact, the Kontum division of Minh-Quy was operational every day of the offensive (to the extent that the staff was at one time giving medication on their hands and knees), even after the partial evacuation to Pleiku. I have myself reviewed the charts for the days of the most intense fighting, and found that adequate medical care, including prescription and administration of medication ~~of~~ ~~medications~~ to very sick patients, was sustained throughout. Several days before the height of hostilities, I personally inspected the site, and found all staff members hard at work. In contrast, the local Province hospital was abandoned long before even the partial evacuation of Minh-Quy, and the only other care available to civilians was provided by the military. To a smaller extent, the Pleiku Province Hospital experienced the same fate.

Kontum Province is primarily Montagnard, and is badly in need of reliable civil services as points of reference to the Saigon authority. For the last ten years, the Montagnard staff of Minh-Quy has provided just this kind of stability. For perspective, the recently-released French priest POW's witnessed the operation of a field hospital taking care of civilians in the NVA-held northeast regions of Kontum Province, with adequate care being administered by well-trained physicians, within the limitations of drug supply.

Thus, I see the Montagnard staff of Minh-Quy Hospital as a significant resource for the political stability of Kontum Province. It is therefore in the best interest of the Saigon government that these people be identified so that they not be overlooked in the event of American withdrawal. We would like to get them certified as qualified nurses, etc., as soon as possible. How should we proceed?

Sincerely yours,

John W. Taylor, M.D.