

[REDACTED]
26 February 1973

John Taylor, M. D.
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Dear John:

Thank you for your recent note and outline of possibilities of your coming tour in Kontum. My experience in Kontum being sporadic and consuming far less time than yours makes it presumptuous for me to comment but in my usual fashion I will anyway.

Your list of possibilities, of course, assumes that M&H will be able to function somewhat along its past pattern, so I will consider it accordingly.

1. Teaching. Hilary Smith in a personal letter to us indicates her feeling of how fast the effect of Western teaching disappears in a high percentage of Montagnards. Of course, there are exceptions, such as Gabrielle. The trick is to find those Montagnards who have the necessary combination of intelligence and dedication. Hilary feels that by and large teaching by short term volunteers is highly evanescent in comparison to long timers.

2. OR. Doubtful of this unless there is a surgeon present during your tour. Dr. Smith could no doubt demonstrate considerable practical surgery, but if she is the only other physician present would no doubt be forced to devote most of her time to the routine care.

3. Administrative. Doubtful if short term effort here would be productive.

4. Village work. Again doubt that this would be productive for short term effort. I think the construction of bicycle wheel stretchers is a superb idea and would make an excellent project that one might persuade a stateside organization (Lion's Club, Kiwanis, etc.) to undertake. A short termmer might do a pilot project and come back to the states prepared to sell his idea to a service organization.

5. Liaison with Vietnamese authorities. This probably would require Dr. Smith's reputation or perhaps some other previous long term M&H person.

6. Seattle center of preservation of Montagnard culture. A very excellent suggestion and one that the M&H should undertake if someone could get it going. Perhaps you will have opportunity to present this idea. I would like to meet Professor Kunstadter while you are here.

7. Other ideas. You might consider stopping to see Tom Cules in Hawaii en route to VN. He and Barbara Hgial were married 17 yrs. in case you had not heard. I think he is with the U. of Hawaii doing

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Medex training.) An investigation and report on the survival and effectiveness of his Village Health worker program might make an interesting paper and contribute to literature on such subjects.

I continue impressed with your talents and admire your use of them. I enjoyed reading your paper. Perhaps while you are in Seattle we can slip over to our little cabin at Hood Canal - program: tennis, steak, and chess.

Best wishes,

Louis (24)

Louis E. Braile, M. D.

LEB/gb

cc - c/o Kon Foldman

Glen Booth

KHF