

July 20, 1973

Dear John --

Welcome back.

The Braile's sent me a copy of your report, which I found impressive for a variety of reasons. The one with most personal application was that it brought home to me the value of going to Minh-Quy with highly specific & clear goals worked out. My own inclination at present (complicated as always by a sense of family obligations) is to pack up & move to Kontum indefinitely simply because I like the life there. While I don't think such a move would be harmful, it does seem to me that it might not be the most valuable way to return in terms of effect on the Montagnards & Hospital. I'd like your views on this at some point -- i.e., what you see as current needs, best utilization of Westerners, future prognosis, etc., etc. In my muddled way I can think immediately of two needs/goals, neither of which appeals to me at all -- one being training in hospital administration (supply, payroll, etc), the other -- grandiose & questionably feasible -- an attempt to start a one year school of nursing at the Hospital. As I say, neither appeals. What I'd selfishly like to do is slip back into my own old role of doing my thing on the ward & that I think might well be counter-productive. Anyway, if/when you have any ideas & time to put them on paper or make a phone call, would you let me know what thoughts you have?

All this, is of course, vague at best. I skirt around the subject with CAS, but am still ambivalent about taking off for my own selfish reasons when he is alone & aging. So I may have to give in & settle here, which would certainly be a tolerable solution although less happy than Kontum. The Braile's were unclear about when you'd return, but I'll be in Burlington most of the summer except for a week to ten days in mid-August when I have a tentative scheme for a Seattle-Wenatchee trip.

Bill writes that the move has been accomplished (July 5th) amidst a predictable amount of chaos -- but they seem to be settling in. Beyond that I've had no recent news. Saw Barb Corvino in NYC last week. She's working at a slum hospital in Newark & while I wouldn't say her life is all sunshine, she looked in good shape & seemed to be coping well. Glen writes complicated analyses of Jeb Stuart Magruder in terms of LBJ Jim from Minneapolis which are a delight to read. He's in summer school & will reapply to medical schools next year.

Hope all's well with you & that the trip home was a success --

Best,

Hilary