

Dear John,

Sixteen time at Minh Quy - really quite a nice feature about working here, although frequently we get a truckload of admets right around noon & have to juggle it. When you were seeing Pt. from Mang B. when you were here? I'm told the original Mang B. was 30 miles north of Minh Quy & for a time was accessible only by helicopter, which meant the was little contact w/ them. The Mang B. resettlement area is one of the poorest the government has been able to create, & while the mosquito season is not even at its height, malaria has reached epidemic proportions there. Many of the adult males were lost in VC raids, & the surrounding land of the resettlement village is so poor the people are suffering from severe malnutrition & as a consequence TB is also prevalent. The gov. went in & built houses for the village, but unfortunately built them on a hillside above the village water supply, so sanitation is virtually non-existent. All in all a miserable place to live. With the influx of Mang B. Cubans, we're running an impatient census of 320-350/day, a big increase from one year ago. We're using the area between the wards & the O.R. as an ICU (I'm assuming you've been out at this building, although wasn't M.O. at the school in town when you were here?) which we at first filled w/ 17 beds leaving space in the middle for cribs. However this has been totally inadequate, so we dragged some army surplus cots out of the warehouse & have spread the ICU out w/ beds clear out to the walkway to the lab. That won't do in the rainy season, though, and found out Mon. noc. during a sudden storm. There's no protection from the wind & with our cold nights, the small kids & babies quite often get hypothermic.

We're having some staff conflicts here, & in many ways, I think things have gone backwards from where they were 2 years ago. With 6 western nurses here & also the rather sudden increase in critical Pt. we've noted the past month, the doctors tend to deal with & rely on more & more the western nurses. George Christian is probably an exception to this, he's an excellent teacher & conscientiously tries to involve the Mont. in whatever he's doing, but the other three don't nearly as much. And with a few exceptions the Mont. lack the aggressiveness to get involved in new situations unless pushed into them, which I think will take the combined effort of doctors & nurses. The system for running the hospital since Western help has been available & even plentiful has slipped back to having the Mont. doing various procedures w/ the western staff doing all the organization. If we should have to leave suddenly they probably could organize a care system, but it seems to me they should be helped to do this before we leave. Pat keeps giving me a list of qualities the Mont. as a race tend to lack - aggression, leadership (desire for), dependability, mathematical ability - & yet when I look at how skilled Nya & Ya Gabriel & Ya Frances are I wonder if we're overlooking the same potential in others. I wish we knew what the future holds for M. Q.

Ya Gabriel said to pass on her greetings to you. She stuck herself w/ a needle used to aspirate a node of a ? plague Pt. No positive diagnosis was made of him, but she likewise developed a swollen axillary node, & was treated for several days w/ tetracycline & chloramphenicol. She is

VIỆT-NAM CỘNG-HÒA

THƯ MÁY BAY  
AÉROGRAMME



Tên và địa chỉ người gửi



Dr. John Taylor



U.S.A.

Kép sau  
2ème pliage  
Second fold

If anything is enclosed this letter will be  
sent by ordinary mail  
Ce pli ne sera pas acheminé par avion s'il  
contient un objet quelconque

chuyển bằng máy bay

...ack working now, but some ~~of the~~ slower down. ones, our  
abundance of energy is amazing. <sup>First fold</sup> Vincent still mothers us all  
along & the multiple dogs who reside in the kitchen. Françoise was  
the less seriously ill Pt both on the ward & in clinic on her own &  
seems reserved but pleased & what she's doing. George has been working  
with her on some basic anatomy, & we're hoping we'll be able to  
proceed from there to classes for the rest of the staff. It's hard to know  
where to start, though!

How goes the site touring? I think of that whenever the weather  
is oppressively hot here, although so far it has been very pleasant  
most of the time. We had hoped to be able to walk up to Kon Mahan  
again before the rainy season, but it doesn't seem advisable right  
now - hush it was possible to get out into the countryside more,  
this is really a beautiful land.

Well, sixtetime is about over. Hope school is going well  
& that you're enjoying your leisure time. Not that I have any worries  
about that. P.S.