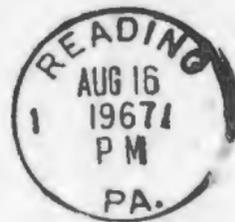


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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO  
EPPAS-A Cook, Jon W.  
US 52 850 668 (26 Jul 67)

15 AUG 1967

Mrs. Anita Cook  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mrs. Cook:

President Johnson has asked that I reply to your recent letter regarding your desire to have your husband returned from Vietnam and your allegation of racial discrimination in that command.

As you are aware, the President is doing everything he can to discourage racial discrimination. Military departments and agencies of the federal government insure equal opportunities to all personnel regardless of race, color, creed or national origin. If your husband has specific problems regarding racial discrimination in his unit, he should consult his immediate commanding officer in this respect.

Soldiers who are filling specific oversea requirements are not normally returned to the United States prior to completion of the prescribed tour for the area to which assigned unless their term of service expires. Exceptions are made when extreme compassionate problems exist in the soldier's immediate family and the solution to them requires the serviceman's presence for a limited time. If your husband feels that he has problems which should receive consideration for compassionate reassignment, he should contact his immediate commanding officer for assistance in the submission of an application. You may be sure that any application submitted by him, with substantiating documentation showing the nature and extent of the hardship involved, will receive careful and understanding consideration.

We are in Vietnam today because the Vietnamese people, striving to preserve their independence against the Communist Viet Cong, have asked for our help. We are giving that help and shall continue to do so. Surely, this is in the American tradition, for basic to the principles of freedom and self-determination which have sustained this country for almost two hundred years is the right of peoples everywhere to live and

15 AUG 1967

EPPAS-A Cook, Jon W.  
US 52 850 668 (26 Jul 67)  
Mrs. Anita Cook

develop in peace. It should be remembered that our country has been fortunate enough in the past to stem aggression on foreign land, thus keeping our country free from war time devastation. Our current conflict in Vietnam is another stepping stone in keeping aggression and war from our homeland.

Your concern is appreciated. It also must be realized that others feel similar concern for their loved ones in the service. You can take pride in your husband's accomplishments thus far and it should be some comfort to you to realize that he is making an important contribution to the security of his country.

Sincerely yours,

*William W. Beverley*

WILLIAM W. BEVERLEY  
Major General, USA  
Chief of Personnel Operations