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and

Priscilla

Thank you for your fax of the proposed Vietnam etc schedule.

I have several comments. It might be best to try to arrive in Hanoi on a Thursday rather than Sunday in order to meet with the Vietnamese Agent Orange workers Thursday and Friday and to be able to meet all the Americans and other expatriates Friday evening at the Australian Embassy Billabong Bar first and then the Swedish Embassy second. These are extremely well attended get together and it is possible to meet enormous numbers of knowledgeable persons in a very short time, including ambassadors, the press, UN persons, US State Dept. persons etc.

We also could try to arrange a reception for you from the American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi and also then in Ho Chi Minh City with many of the people you will want to meet, Vietnamese, Americans etc .

It is relatively easy to change tickets on Air Vietnam going from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, or at least it has been until now, but you may not wish to spend so long in Hanoi compared to Ho Chi Minh City. This can be changed later, but hotels should be booked in a rigid fashion.

Also, we do not yet know the Vietnamese schedules. They will very much want to meet you, but they do have many obligations and invitations and are not always available. You should confirm with Dr. Dai. It is essential for you to meet Dr. Dai and his colleagues in Hanoi and Dr. Phuong in Ho Chi Minh City if you are to know the two most important Agent Orange researchers and their colleagues and institutions.

I would strongly recommend more time in Bangkok after Vietnam (one or two full days not involved in travel) in order to permit setting up a luncheon (or dinner) for you at the Foreign Correspondents Press Club of Thailand at the Dusithani Hotel. It will get major coverage and set up strong interest in the US press when we return. Peter Eng of AP usually does a wonderful job given enough advance notice. Phil Shenon of the NY Times will want to accompany us in Vietnam and or interview us privately in Bangkok, but he frequently finds other stories in other countries. Reuters etc all will be in Bangkok and Hanoi and Saigon have less press, but some. Bangkok is also a very good place to rest after Vietnam. The Imperial Hotel is popular with Americans and has an excellent swimming pool and location (price about \$90/night, luxury hotel). The Oriental at about \$165/night is one of the world's finest hotels and a real experience for a day or two. The Impala and its sister hotel next door combine a cheap with a luxury hotel, so the group could save money but be together. Bangkok travel is extremely slow now due to terrible traffic.

Please let me know about flexibility of dates.