

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

Vietnam Project - Office of Coordinators

December 29, 1958

Mr. Phan Quang Pham
154 Hicks St.
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

I am deeply and terribly sorry that we missed each other on the day you departed for Washington and New York. In addition, of course, you missed the copy of the enclosed letter from Mr. Rodgers in which he assumed that you would arrive on January 5th.

I hope that you had a nice Christmas, but seeing that you were writing letters on Christmas day I am afraid that you have had a rather lonely holiday. My family's telephone number is WEBSTER 90793. I am sending them a copy of this letter and requesting them to invite you to their home while several of the other Vietnamese are in town.

The easiest way to reach my family's home in New Jersey is by taking bus # 35 (Inter City Lines) from Platform #74 in the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal at 8th Avenue and 40th Street. You should purchase a ticket in advance at window 20 or 21, to East Rutherford, and ask the driver to let you off at the Garden Spot Tavern. Our house is the first one on Hackensack Street beyond the tavern and the Garden State Supply Company. I am sorry to have missed the opportunity to show at least part of New York City to you but do recommend that you see as much as possible, preferably in small doses.

Please find enclosed your check for January 1st to 15th.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

cc: G. Cunningham
77 Hackensack
E. Rutherford, N.J.

Enc: Check MSU # 55444
copy ltr exp Rodgers

Washington DC 12-17-58

Dear Miss Elsie,

I arrived safely in Washington but the day after I caught cold and had to stay home for two days. I paid a visit to Mr. Liang at the Fund and he set up a program for me for a couple of weeks in next Spring. He'll let me know the date of my training. He ~~also~~ assigned me some documents to study now. I'll go to New York on Monday as you slated.

I appreciate very much your arrangement for sending my jewels which I asked Mrs. Boris DeKoning to keep. If your friend accepts to do this for me, please send these jewels by air mail (registered if

possible) and let me know the
cost as well as your friend's
address; I'll ask my wife
to come there and take them.

She'll certainly be pleased
to wear them on the Tet, our
New Year Day (mid Feb.).

Thank you again Miss Elsie.
I wish you a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.

yours faithfully,

Pham

New York Dec. 25-1958

Dear Miss Elsie,

I arrived in New York on the 22nd. The day after I went and saw Mr. Rodgers, chief of the Foreign Personnel Division, First National City Bank. He told me to come back on the 2nd of January because they had many things to do at this period. So I go sightseeing and read the Fund documents.

I live now in Brooklyn, Hicks Street, 10 minutes only by subway to the City Bank. But you didn't realize how hard I find this place. I was exhausted at the evening of the 22nd. The cost of living is nearly twice expensive in Michigan and I

don't like to live here
where people rush and run
and nobody cares for nobody.
So I certainly miss you, Miss
Elsie.

I don't know if according
to the ICA regulations I can
get a refund for the transport
cost from and to airport, but
I gave you my expenses for
information:

- in Washington: from Airport to
downtown and vice versa:

$$1.60 \times 2 = 3.20$$

- in New York: from Airport to downtown
1.80

Again, I wish you a merry
Christmas and a fruitful New
Year

Yours
154 ~~Brooklyn~~ Hicks St
Brooklyn
New York

New York 12/30/58

Dear Miss Elsie,

As you ~~as~~ know in my last letter I go sightseeing in New York now until Jan. 2nd. I join the Holiday Center and enjoy its parties and expeditions very much. At the same time I spent quite a lot of money for the tour tickets. This is an unique opportunity in my life to learn and know people and things in such a short time. In the meantime I read and find the Fund documents very interesting too.

I spent my Christmas Day with a family in Arlington, N. J. and this reminded me of your home. I like to live there. It is so quiet, there are many trees and

people are kind.

Now I think I am tired of sightseeing and I need to work in the bank where everything seems very interesting to me.

At last but not least, I'd like to send you my SOS: I have now only \$15 in my pocket, so you can see how eager I long for your check, Miss Elsie.

I wish you a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Pham

154 Hicks Street, Room 3
Brooklyn, N.Y.

January 6, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Recently we received a memorandum from Mr. Waltman in Saigon regarding reimbursement for medical examinations and United States visas. The USOM/Saigon has now agreed to reimburse participants in piastres for the expense of the medical (up to 750 piastres) and the 306 piastres charged for a United States visa.

Mr. Waltman is requesting that receipts for the medical examinations be sent to him so that he can do the necessary processing. He has already written to your wife in Saigon requesting that they see him about reimbursement.

When you have the opportunity, please do not hesitate to call my family and I am sure that they will be pleased to have you for the weekend or any time that might be mutually convenient.

I am writing to the Wall Street Journal today to see if we can have your subscription delivered in New York City rather than here.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

154 Hecks St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Else

New York Jan 6, 1959

Dear Mr & Mrs Sheinbaum,

Thank you very much for your wishes for the Christmas and the New Year. I have been in Washington for a week and got into touch with the Fund people in order to set up a training program for me this Spring. ~~Next~~ I went ^{next} to New York and spent a merry Christmas in a family in Arlington N.J. and a happy New Year day in Palisade Park in another family. People were so kind and I appreciate very much their warm hospitality.

I work now in the First National City Bank of

New York. They sent me to
their ~~various~~ departments and I
will stay a long time in their
Credit & Foreign Departments and their
Trust Company. I find this kind
of training very interesting even
fascinating.

Thank you again for what you
have done for me. May 1959 be
a fruitful year for you. My
respects to Mrs Steinbaum.

Yours sincerely
Pham

January 12, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your check for the period from January 15th to the 31st. I am sorry to say that Mr. Thoi seems most unhappy since his return to campus and is anxiously trying to get out of the dormitory at present.

Several people among the newly arrived participants have asked where you were and of course I have said that the Bank requested you be sent to New York City for training and consequently we had agreed and you were presently at the First National Bank. Mr. Phat in particular asked where you were.

I was interested to learn that you had spent both Christmas and New Year's in a city only about 15 to 20 minutes from my home in New Jersey and hope you will have the opportunity to visit my family soon. Actually, of course, many people commute back and forth to downtown Manhattan on the Erie railroad and ferry or Hudson Tube. In fact I did so myself for quite a long time.

It has just occurred to me that you might enjoy meeting a friend of mine who works at the Allied Chemical and Dye Offices (Solvay Sales Div.) at 61 Broadway St., New York City. His name is Robert LIEBUNDGUT, who is very active in the affairs of his church in Brooklyn. I will drop him a note but in the meantime I suggest that if you just call and mention my name he will recognize both the name and would I am sure be pleased to have you attend his church either during the week or on Sunday morning.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

Enc: Per Diem check MSU # 57792

Brooklyn Jan 13, 1959

Dear Miss Elsie,

Thank you for your two letters. My wife told me that she had handed over the receipts for the medical examinations to Mr. Waltman.

I would like to take two Business English courses at the American Institute of New York and the City Bank accepts to introduce me to this Institute. The courses are given in the evening, after work hours. Do you mind making arrangement in order Viet Nam Project covers the tuition cost (which would be around \$ 60) and that of the test books?

I appreciate very much your arrangement with your family for having me with them during the weekend. I really feel lonely in my room. Unfortunately, I have a little cold now, so I dare not go out. When I feel better I'll call your family.

By the way, I receive the Wall Street Journal of the N.Y edition. Thank you for this.

Sincerely yours
Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn N.Y.

January 22, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period covering February 1st to the 15th, also letters to the American Institute of New York. If you can give me the names of the books we will order them directly or buy them through the Institute and have them add this to the tuition bill.

In addition, please find enclosed a copy of a letter badly typed by me that I have written to my friend Bob Leibundgut.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

Enc: Insurance I.D. card, ICA notice & claim form
Participant letter, newsletter and
Per diem check No. 60064.
cc: ltr/Leibundgut.

February 10, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks St.
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from February 16th to the 28th. As you might suspect Thoi and Chau contributed greatly to the successful operation of the New Year's celebration for the Vietnamese here in East Lansing. Needless to say it sounds as if everyone had a good time although I am sure that they missed the able assistance of an additional willing worker.

It took me over a day to recover from the Chinese celebration of the same occasion and I am now beginning to feel normal again.

I was pleased to hear that you and Bob had made arrangements to lunch together and perhaps get together over a weekend. He is the most unlikely type of individual for the characterization of Brooklynite and in fact his accent is so remote from the normal in this environment as to make him quite distinctive.

I trust that the weather has been less distressing in the New York area than here. We have had a series -first of snow (which still remains on the ground) then sleet, then rain, and then sleet again. Everything is just a sheet of ICE, and my car remains in the driveway!

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

Enc: MSU check63729

53/13 Ba Huyen ^{Thank}
Saigon, February 12th 1959

Dear Miss Elsie,

Owing to you I could received
the gift sent from my husband
before "Tết". I was very happy
And I thank you very much.
My husband said to me
that you will come in Saigon
soon. I aim to make your
acquaintance and if you want
I will invite you to taste our
vietnamese cooking. I am very
sorry that I may not go to US
first to improve my English
and after to visit your beautiful
country. My husband is
very happy to be there.
He says many good things

about U.S.

Once more thank you -

Sincerely yours

Mrs Pham

February 13, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks-Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Mr. Pham:

Please find enclosed a check of \$25,
refund of your housing deposit during the
fall term.

I hope you are enjoying your stay in
New York and has spent a Happy Tet there.

Sincerely,

Encl.: Check No.65186

Brooklyn Feb. 17 1959

Dear Miss Elsie,

I am very glad to inform you that ~~my~~ my wife has received the jewelry you had sent her and she was very happy to wear it during the Tet. She asked me to send her thanks to you.

I probably will be with the Leibundgut this weekend. He appears to me as a very good fellow. Although it doesn't show here, it's still cold and I'd rather stay in my room and read. I'm ~~receiving~~ the textbooks of MSU.

I have suggested to Mr. Kiang at the Fund that it is better for me to do my training without interruption until September and he has approved this idea, saying that it would be the best moment because I would have the opportunity to observe the Meeting of the governors of the Fund and the Bank which will be held in Washington on Sept. 28. You know, I don't like to move for fear of losing my room which is very conveniently located: it's 10 minutes from ~~there~~ my room to the ^{city} Bank.

Thank so much for your greetings. May the Year of the Pig be fruitful to you.

Pham

My greetings to Miss Chan
Successful year to her.

February 19, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Thank you for your letter of February 17th. I am sure that the weather in New York City is no colder than the below zero temperatures of East Lansing, for the last few days. I also received a note from your wife the other day and I am pondering the possibilities of answering this in Vietnamese. Sheer imputence on my part. Also in the process of setting in the boss's chair the other day I discovered an English-Vietnamese dictionary in Mr. Sheinbaum's bookcase. Subsequently since he is now in Vietnam for three or four weeks I have borrowed same, -as a better source of answers than the small vocabulary available in the incomparable books on spoken Vietnamese.

Believe it or not I think I might make some progress especially if I were ever able to convince my "scotch nature" that a tape recorder was a reasonable investment.

You do not mention in your letters about the New Year's eve celebration in New York City. Mrs. Bach-Lan mentioned that there were 28 people there including three children whereas the group that celebrated here numbered 29 including the Ban family.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

February 20, 1959

Mr. Pham Quang Pham
154 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Pham:

Your bank statement arrived with your envelope torn open. I think this is due to the fact that they could not read the address through the envelope window section provided for it.

Chan will be coming to New York this Saturday and will probably be in touch with Than whose telephone No. is RI 9-8724, and also, of course, Frank Schiff of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Sincerely yours,

EC:ms

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant