

February 23, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed the check for your per diem from March 1-15.

I trust that you are having better weather in New York City than we are having here - after one day of springlike temperatures we are now back to the cold wet and snowy business. If it ever improves, I'll be really grateful.

For the first time in several weeks I was able to move my car from the driveway and come to the campus with a minimum amount of slipping and sliding. The number of people hobbling around with casts on their legs, slings on the arm, etc. attest to the generally hazardous conditions underfoot.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

Enc. : Check #66813

Brooklyn March 10, 1959

Dear Elsie,

I am very glad to tell you that I have spent the last Sunday with the Leibundguts. I went with them to the Bellrose Baptist Church; then we ~~they and I~~ dined in a Howard Johnson's Restaurant famous for its 28 flavor-icecreams, and next we drove nearly 60 miles to see the picturesque landscapes and the sea side. I was really impressed by some beautiful places, especially Garden City with its lovely houses which remind me of East Lansing and its wealthy shops such as Macy's, Abraham and Strauss, Sears Roebuck. I must return there some day for sight seeing and windowshopping. Robert has also shown me a few bathing resorts with their immense auto parkings, the Roosevelt field where Lindberg took off for the first transatlantic flight 32 years ago, the Mitchell airfield and Idlewild Airport. I have enjoyed this trip very much. His parents was very kind too; they asked me to come back again. Before I ~~go~~ went home, Robert has proposed me to drive with him in a couple of weeks to Nyack where there is a Bible School and to visit West Point.

So, Elsie, you gave me a lucky star, and thank so much for that.

You have asked me what did I do on the Tet day. Well, until this date, I didn't know any Vietnamese in New York City, except 2 from

the Credit Commercial (a Saigon bank) who had go home before the Tet. In fact, I am not eager to look for my fellowcountrymen. So I spent the Tet by visiting Chinatown and was very glad to see how the American Chinese live and celebrate the Tet. About 20,000 American people observed this feast.

Recently, I've gone to the International House but I couldn't find Mr. Cao Tien. ^(He was absent) I'll seek Mr. Than whom I personally know. You know, my principle is that I must consecrate most of my time to discover the U.S. ~~and~~ ^{the} people, and ~~his~~ achievements. And I may write a book on the U.S. viewed by a Vietnamese at the end of my scholarship.

I've just finished the book "the Ugly American". It is a realistic standpoint of the authors and it's true for some American people in Vietnam.

I'm writing my report which covers about 25 pages. I'll send you next week.

Sincerely,

Pham

Registered Return Receipt

March 11, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from March 15th to the 31st. You will note that it is probably for a larger sum than you expected. This is all due to an error which will be subsequently rectified by the deduction of \$32.00 from your next check. I hope that this does not upset your budget.

Also please find enclosed a memorandum concerning the change in tickets for all participants who arrived travelling on first class tickets. The project has agreed to allow shipment from here of 22# surface freight to take up the difference caused by this change in ticketing.

I suppose that no news is good news and I presume that all is going well with your training at the bank.

Mr. Gabis is planning to come to New York the weekend of March 28th and would very much like to meet with all the participants. As soon as a time and place has been definitely settled either I shall contact you or I will ask one of the other participants in New York to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

Enc: MSU check 70429
Memo dtd 3/10/59

March 13, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

At last report Mr. Gabis' trip to New York was off. We are requesting the Columbia students to attend the Washington conference of the American Society for Public Administration, and Mr. Gabis and Mr. Sheinbaum plan to meet them there.

I am pleased that you have found a congenial companionship in Bob Liebundegut. He always seems to me the very antithesis of what one expects from a Brooklynier.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

Es:kc

Brooklyn March 17, 1959

Dear Elsie,

Please find enclosed ~~my~~ airplane ticket for conversion into ~~the~~ tourist class. I have no objection to this governmental measure, because I am always regarding myself as a student, not as an official. But I'm still worrying my trips in the U.S. (if I ever go by plane) and I am a little disappointed because I intend to bring some presents and souvenirs with me when I go home. (Just imagine ~~my~~ feeling ~~when~~ my parents and relatives ~~are~~ waiting for me at the airport and I had nothing for them!) I've learned from Thoi that all the Vietnamese trainees will go to Tennessee this month. This news makes me jealous. I am now tired of New York City and would like to go traveling a little ^{while}. On the contrary, I am enjoying ~~the~~ my training at the City Bank and you will notice it when you receive my report next week.

Last Sunday, I took the Hudson tube to Newark, but was disappointed because there was almost nothing to see except the statue of Lincoln ~~in~~ in front of the Court House and the City Hall which was decorated for Saint Patrick Day.

I would be glad to see Mr. Gabis in New York and am waiting for the first hand news in East Lansing.

Cordially
Pham

March 20, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from April 1-15. Frankly decided that the checks were the most important piece of business this morning. As a matter of fact the auditor is still waiting for a breakdown on where and how we spent the money for each participant since July 1957 but although the figures are now completed after 2-3 days of working intermittently on it, I have not yet had the nerve to turn it over to her.

In addition since I'm operating completely on my own these days (Chau is taking exams; Margaret is still out sick since last week) I don't have nearly enough time to do all those things that need to be done.

I agree with your difficulty in carrying home gifts for your family but perhaps you will have the opportunity of sending them one or two things beforehand - this has the only alternative suggestion that I can make.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

Enc: Check 72852

New York March 23, 1959

Miss Elsie Cunningham, Administrative Assistant
Viet Nam Project, MSU
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Elsie,

I am enclosing herewith the report on my training at the City Bank, New York. It's a long one, although I tried to make a short resume of the complicated loan operations. I hope it will give a good impression to the readers.

Please have this report sent together with all the forms to the National Bank of Viet Nam, through MSU Saigon, because we shall need them.

I would appreciate your acknowledgment of receipt of this report in your next letter.

Sincerely

Pham

P.S. I would appreciate your making arrangement to buy for me five books and booklets recommended by our training officers. The City Bank Club is in charge of buying for us these books at a discount price. The titles of the books are shown in the list enclosed.

At the last moment, I sent the forms in a separate envelope.

Report Typed &
Submitted to Mr.
Shambaugh March
30, 1959
with forms

March 27, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

In the absence of Elsie, who is in Knoxville, Tennessee by now with the rest of the participants, I am acknowledging the receipt of your letter from New York, dated March 23, 1959 and your report. Mr. Sheinbaum has also seen the letter accompanying the report and will answer it just as soon as I can complete an original and three typed copies so that your request may be carried out. I do not believe the envelope containing the forms has arrived yet unless it first went to the upstairs office. But, it surely will be here by Monday.

I shall do my best to have this report typed and ready to go for the Tuesday, March 31st, Saigon-bound mail.

I have just received word that the vacation bound group had arrived safely at Lexington, Kentucky enroute to Knoxville to view TVA. I hope you get to see an old custom of ours celebrated in New York every Easter Sunday called the "Easter Parade" when everyone who can joins in parading up or down Broadway in Easter costume or their new Easter and Spring clothing.

Mr. Sheinbaum and his beautiful wife Lynn have returned from Saigon bearing gifts for us all andstacks of work! We have been having quite lovely spring weather lately until last night when the weather decided to have one last winter fling (I hope!) and piled snow, ice, and rain on us all night long. But the weather has cleared today and the sun is really smiling down on us once again and there's hardly a trace of snow left now.

Tuesday evening an (early!) farewell dinner was held for Pham Duy Suu at the International House with Thoi, Kim Chau, and Miss Loc helping with preparations. Luckily I was able to attend this one. The meal was delicious and the aromas from the cooking better than perfume. We had a chicken broth type soup with the flavor of vegetables and the fermented fish sauce that I'm sorry to say I cannot spell the name of. Pork chops with bamboo shoots and other flavorings cooked with soya sauce, chicken, salads made of greens, rice, and no better way to top it all off but my favorite way to eat big juicy navel oranges but then with salt. It was my first real meal since the first of two trips to the hospital so I more than enjoyed it. I am only sorry that you could not be here to have joined us all.

Good luck and a joyful spring!

Sincerely,

Margaret Stephens

April 6, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

If it is possible please go ahead and buy these books through the City Bank Club and send us a receipt for the amount expended. If I were to order these directly it would require quite a few signatures and in addition would take a week before we could receive the purchase order for forwarding to you.

If you can purchase these directly and send us a receipt that will be fine.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

April 13, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

I very much enjoyed reading over your report and you will be pleased to note that we have sent the copies to Saigon last week. I am enclosing a memorandum to all participants to guide you in future book purchases. As a matter of fact it fits exactly with what I suggested to you in my letter of April 6th.

As I expect to be in New York from April the 24th to the 28th (if my request for travel is approved) I believe the easiest way for us to get together would be if you were to call my family that Friday evening or Saturday. The number is - WEBster 9-0793 and it is in Rutherford, New Jersey.

I am looking forward to seeing you and the other participants who are in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:ms

Enc: ck # 77053 - MSU
Memo

May 11, 1959

REGISTERED

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem cheque for the period from May 15 to 31.

I very much enjoy reading your paper and if we have an opportunity, I shall try to have this typed for Saigon.

I received a card from Bob the other day and he seems to be enjoying his holiday.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant

EC:kc

Encl.: Cheque No. 82308

May 14, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed the reimbursement for the books that you purchased some time ago.

I have written to Saigon about the extension of your stay in the United States and hope that we shall soon have an answer to this question.

We are back in winter again today - with frost predicted for this evening.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

Brooklyn May 20 1959

Miss Elsie Cunningham
Administrative Assistant
Viet Nam Project, MSU

Dear Elsie,

I am glad to announce you that I have just got an A in my final examination at the American Institute of Banking. The result outran my hope. However I don't like the American exam: they give you a sentence with two underlined expressions and ask you to mark A if the first expression is correct, B if the second is correct, C if both are right, D if both are incorrect. I prefer a theme.

I am somewhat disappointed not able to attend two next courses (banking correspondence and bank reports) because they will start only in September.

I did not expect that you sent ^{so early} A to Saigon my oral request for extension of my stay here. Anyway, it is all right and thank you for this arrangement. It is becoming warm and humid in New York ^{now} and this makes me tired.

Sincerely

Pham

May 22, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

I'm sorry about the extension - I automatically told Saigon as past experience indicates that something like 2 or 3 months always elapses before we have the actual extension through all the processes.

I'm inclined to agree with you about this kind of test - as the numbers of students increase more and more of this rather ambiguous type of question tends to be used.

If it would not be too much trouble, I would very much like to have the May 7 issue of "The Wall Street Journal" - understand that there are a number of letters about foreign aid in this particular issue.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

May 27, 1959

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

Dear Pham:

Please find enclosed your per diem check for the period from June 1-15. The latest word is that the university monthly payroll will be met on Friday - since the governor and the legislature still have not seen fit to get together in the financial crisis of Michigan it continues to be touch and go from month to month.

Soon the majority of the participants will be leaving campus, and there will only be a few staying behind. In the midst of this confusion I must try and work out a plan for each one. At the moment that means an indefinite deferment of my vacation plans.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham

Enc: Check #85025

New York May 29, 1959

Miss Elsie Cunningham, Administrative Assistant
Viet Nam Project, MSU
East Lansing

Dear Elsie,

Please find attached my Report #2 on the Foreign Department. You will notice that the duration of my training in this Department is rather short, it is because I shall have many other important things to learn in investment. Some clerks at the Bank told me that it had taken ~~them~~ a couple of months for them to understand the job, and I wonder whether I have learnt properly. Anyway it is better to know something than nothing.

If possible, I wish to have a copy of my report when typed.

At present I am in training in the Bond Administration Department and the Department Head has recommended me the book "Fundamentals of Investment Banking". Having already ordered it, I hope you will not have any objection as to the reimbursement. I also wish to have your permission to buy the book "Effective Bank Letter" which will be a great help for me in dealing in English with foreign banks.

I was astonished at Mr. Dulles' death, stricken by galloping cancer. It is a terrible thing to know that every two minutes an American dies of cancer!

I am also enclosing the ~~the~~ May 7 issue of the "Wall Street Journal" and the latest article on foreign aid which surely will arouse a host of commentators. Every time I fall on a study of this kind, I have the impression that I am wasting your people's money, although certain critics are accurate.

Sincerely

Phau