

Pan Francisco, Oct. 19. 1960.



Dear Dr. Austin.

I got your letter today, I have been feeling so bad.

Would you please spend some of your precious minutes to read my whole letter, Dr. Austin,

Please do so, I would like you to know me, to understand me, to understand the story of my membership in Columbia Record Club, better.

Please, do read my letter Dr. Austin.

This is the story:

When I first came to the States, my uncle-in-law wanted me to be a Columbia Record Club member, in order to buy records for ~~see~~ him. I was very pleased to do that, because I would be very happy helping people, and specially helping my uncle-in-law, something.

You will see I don't care for the money I pay for the records, because it is not my money, my uncle-in-law will pay for them back to me.

When I was in Mary Mayo dormitory (MSW) I was a member of Columbia Record Club. I bought 6 records from the Club then.

And I did write to them about a month

2) before I left the dormitory, informing them my new address (Vietnam Project office address), because I moved out into a apartment in Linden St. ^{in Summer} and told telling them I would leave E. Lansing on August 1st, and I wanted them to send me 5 other records, any title, with Latin American music, before August 1st.

Because I have understood I had to buy 11 records in a year, so I ordered these 5 records (I bought 6 the 1st time)

I was waiting for them about a month, they didn't send me records until the end of August

But in August I had 3 chances to come back to E. Lansing, so even they sent me records so late, I still accepted them! And I received the whole 11 records that I had to buy from them in a year.

I paid for them once from Grand Rapids and once from St. Louis, Mo, I did write to them I left E. Lansing already, I did buy the 11 records that I had to buy and not sending me anymore records, but unfortunately, they kept sending me records.

The records they recently told me to pay, I haven't got them, I don't know where they are? how could I pay \$18 for nothing!!!

The last time I received records ~~was~~ on the day we went to say good-bye to you, I got 2 records



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

and I paid for them from St. Louis
too, and since that time I haven't
got anymore records.

How could I pay for them?

I have been asking myself:

- Why they kept sending me records?

- Why they didn't send me records at Viet Nam
Project address.

It was difficult if they don't send records
directly to me.

I couldn't find the answer!!!

In Los Angeles, I told Lt. Mr. Allister
(Personnel and Training Division) about the story, and
I asked him the advise.

He advised me write to them, telling them
I haven't got these records, and I did buy
the whole 11 records that I had to buy, I did
tell them not sending me anymore records, why
didn't they kept sending me records.

And that was all and he advised me to forget
about that, because he did see I was so sad.

I did what he told me to do and I added:
"I will pay for them right away after getting them."

Yesterday I wrote to Mrs. Davis Vedas
asking her about records and I sent \$20.00
to Mrs. Phoebe Blank, a policewoman in St. Louis

Police Dept. (she is my best friend) I wanted her to keep this money in case I find these records out, she will pay these records for me.

Today, I received your letter, I am feeling much worst. I really am crying now, because I am thinking you, Dr. Austin, and People in Vietnam Project office didn't understand my case, your People would think I am a Bad Girl!!!

To be honest, I am really crying Dr. Austin I couldn't sleep since I have been in San Francisco, I haven't enjoyed my trip to San Francisco.

Who Knows me?

Who understands me?

I would be very sad if your people misunderstand me, if your People think I am a very bad Vietnamese girl!!!

I prefer to be dead to live in a misunderstood situation!!!

Now, you want me to pay for them, I did pay for them this morning, I bought a money order and I registered the letter I paid for them myself, even I sent \$20 dollars to Mrs. Blank to pay for them whenever I want her to pay for them. I wanted to pay for them myself, because if so, I could be sure I did pay for them.

Now, Dr. Austin, you don't have to worry anything about that, but may I have



a favor to ask you a question.

If you were in my case, would you pay for these records? (I mean if you don't get them and if you tell them not sending you anymore records.)

I know you, Dr. Austin, you are very busy, but may I ask you another favor:

If you understand now, if you understand my case, please do drop me some lines, telling me whether or not you still think I am a bad Vietnamese girl!!!

I wish you were here, so you can see how I am, how much I am crying.

I am not crying because I had to pay for the records I don't get them, but because you, Dr. Austin, and your People in Viet Nam Project office didn't understand me.

Please, let Mrs. Austin and People in Viet Nam Project read my letter.

I am waiting to hear from you, Dr. Austin, please give me some lines, otherwise nobody else and nothing can get me out of my sadness.

I did enjoy my trip to the States very much.

I felt very happy in this country, even I was alone in my field trip, because everywhere I had chances to visit, people were very friendly, very helpful, very kind to me, so I did feel very very happy and I was sorry to leave this country very soon. I didn't know I have had a very bad time in San Francisco, because of my membership in Columbia Record Club, I have had a very sad time in my last days in this country! I am not feeling happy anymore in here, I wish I was with my parents now, they will understand me better.

Please do write to me, my home address is:
 Miss Nguyễn Kim-Dinh
 34 đường Tân Thành
 Cholon (South Viet Nam)

Thanks a lot for reading my whole letter, Dr. Austin, and for taking care of me in everything. Lots of love to You, Dr. Austin, Your Family and your People in Viet-Nam Project office.
 Love and Regards

Sincerely yours
 Dinh

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Please do write to me, my home address is:

Miss Nguyễn Kim-Dinh

34 đường Tân Thành

Cholon (South Vietnam)

Thanks a lot for reading my whole letter, Dr. Austin, and for taking care of me in everything. Lots of luck to You, Dr. Austin, Your Family and your People in Vietnam Project office.

Love and Regards

Sincerely yours

Dinh

Oct. 27, 1960

DEAR MISS DINH:

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY IF WE HAVE CAUSED YOU UNDUE SORROW. IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN NOTIFY PARTICIPANTS OF CERTAIN BILLS SO THAT THEY WILL BE SURE TO CANCEL MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS BEFORE LEAVING THE STATES.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE ASSUME THAT THE TYPICAL "BUSINESS LETTER" WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY YOU. IN NO WAY DO WE DOUBT OR QUESTION YOUR HONESTY AND HONORABLE CONDUCT.

OF COURSE, WE DO NOT FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD PAY FOR ANY GOODS NOT RECEIVED. IF WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP IN THIS MATTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

YOUR MANY FRIENDS HERE SEND THEIR REGARDS.

CORDIALLY,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

MISS NGUYEN KIM DINH
34 SQ. TAN THANH 34
QUAN 5
CHOLON, SOUTH VIET-NAM

follow in sequence. Copybook 119. The 11
group because of the fact that the
children do so far as 119. The following
and so therefore, and because of the following
Book is designed mainly according to
all cases, and so far as much by
so much more advanced to the next of
which is hard to do?

the following sequence.

These words, also a list of the most
frequent in this handwriting, are often good
from time to time in the study, and should
be studied well to this advantage, but it is
more likely to do this advantage, than to do
the case to do. Careful in this, however, as
you a student, as it is, they should read
the following, which is more in the English and
decidedly, better, which is in the English and
the a student, so did it with the help
you, this is certainly good, and this is
so well so far advanced to the next of
so well and all to which is the reason
because of you, so far as the body of the
again, so good you will be a subject of
so well do good to the few you have.

Good day, friend.

January 11. 1960.

nothing if I consider the scholarship
I got from your government, your
People to go to the States. I should
appreciate your kindness and your
goodness to me, and I tried to
forget what People in Colombia
Reward Club treated me, and yet
I forgot about that.

And yesterday, I got the check
from C.R.C., they said:

.....
Enclosed is our check # cc 594845
in the amount of @ 17.76 as a refund
for your overpayment

When you return to this country and
again wish to share in the many Club
benefits, please let us know. We will
be happy to reactivate your account.

I really cannot understand this.

I would like to say "thanky" to
you, Dr. Austin, not because I
got the check, but because you paid
so much attention to my trouble with
C.R.C., and you understand me the

3) I was not that kind of bad girl.
This is the only thing I want you
to know about me.

Let's forget it now!

How are you Dr. Austin, and
how about your family. I really
think of you, People in Vietnam
Project office, and lots of friends
in the States very often, but I
cannot write to all of your people
I met in the States, I'm very sorry.

Last week I got a letter from
Mr. Beril, my editor, and Dr.
Brennan, one of my professor in
High. Tokio School. I was so happy

The picnic we had, under
the rain, comes to my mind
very often, what a wonderful
time! I enjoyed it very much.
It was very sweet of you to pick
me up and take me home, thank
a lot, Dr. Austin.

4) I would like to write to Dr. and
Mrs. Smethers, but I don't have
their address, I'm going to ask
Pham-Chau about that and
will write to them very soon.

I'll write to you, Dr. Austin
if I have time.

With very best wishes to
you and your people from my
whole family.

Love and Regards

~~pe~~

Nguyen-Nam-Dinh

84 Tan-Thanh

Cholon

Viet-Nam

Saigon, Nov. 28 - 1960.

Dear Dr. Austin.

I got your letter quite some time but I have been very busy that I wrote you so late, I hope you will forgive me for that, won't you?

Thanks a lot for having intention to help me with my difficulty with Columbia Record Club, I am so glad that I am very busy, and I don't have any time to think about the 3 records I did pay and I haven't gotten them.

I am very busy with my work with my friends in Vietnam, in the States and in other countries (I write them).

When we first came back ^{home}, the whole Vietnamese group (who when to Mich. State University) had a meeting, and Mr. Pham Van Kien told me he saw some of my records in San Francisco Police Dept. ~~but~~ I didn't believe him, because I was there (after his stay in San Francisco), and they just give me letters from Columbia Record Club, and more records, anyway \$18.00 is nothing and I am so glad I can forget about that.

We had a wonderful time last weekend, you know why; Dr. Austin? We had parties with some new American friends of mine, who I was in your country, many of your people treated me very nice, and now we are trying treating your people in Saigon as nice as possible. They invited us to an American party on Saturday (Nov. 26.) and we gave them a party too last night (Nov. 27). We were enjoying the parties very much, and we wanted them to be safe, so last night we brought them home by our car.

What I wrote above, I think, is very interesting for you because, I guess you will be very happy to know our relationship with the American people in Saigon is so closed.

Your new year is coming, I wish you, your family, and people in your office, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, I bet you are waiting about your Christmas coming, aren't you?

My whole family like the American people very much and last night they decided to learn English to speak to my American friends.

I will write you again if I have time, please tell Dr. and Mrs. Smuckler and people in Viet Nam Project office hello for me.

Love and Regards.

Dinh

DECEMBER 8, 1960

MISS NGUYEN KIM DINH
34 Sq. TAN THANH 34
QUAN 5
CHOLON, SOUTH VIET-NAM

DEAR MISS DINH:

WE APPRECIATED HEARING FROM YOU AND HOPE THAT BY NOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE CHECK SENT BY COLUMBIA RECORD CLUB DIRECTLY TO YOUR HOME IN VIET-NAM.

I AM SURE THE AMERICAN THERE WILL DERIVE GREATER ENJOYMENT FROM SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS SUCH AS YOU HAVE DESCRIBED IN YOUR LETTER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE TO US IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO. YOUR MANY FRIENDS HERE CONVEY THEIR BEST REGARDS.

CORDIALLY,

RUBEN V. AUSTIN
ASSISTANT DEAN

RVA:JR