

San 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 ~~me~~ 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 later 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



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2) before I left the dormitory, informing them my new address (Viet. Nam Project office address), because I moved out into a apartment in Linden St. ^{in Summer} and ~~to~~ 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 no 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~~ ^{was} on that day we went to say good-bye to you, I got 2 records



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and I paid for them from St. Louis
Mo., 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. Mc. Allister
(Personel 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~~ buy
the whole " 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 Blunk, 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 worse. 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.

~~How~~ 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. Blum 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



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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^{the} 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. Ham
Project office didn't understand me.

Please, let Mrs. Austin and People in
Viet. Ham 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 đg. 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 luck to You, Dr. Austin, Your Family and your People in Viet-Nam Project office.

Love and Regards

Sincerely yours

Dinh

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 - Đinh

34 đg. Tân - Thành

Cholon (South Việt 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 Việt - Nam Project office.
Love and Regards

Sincerely yours
Đinh

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

Wagon, Jan. 11. 1960.
Dear Dr. Austin

I was so glad to hear from you
again, I got your letter a couple of
weeks ago, but I was so busy that
I was not able to write to you sooner.
I was so surprised to know, from
you, that Columbia Record Club did
me a chair, I didn't know why.
Because they wrote to me about my
day, when I was in Los Angeles and
San Francisco, telling me to pay \$17.76
for a chair, if not, they would send
the car to the Court in N. York, and I
wrote to them several times, told them
I didn't get this record, but I still
have some money in the state, I would
pay for them immediately, or after getting
these records, even I told them not sending
me anymore records.

What I had to do?
I was not afraid to be not in
the Court, but I didn't want my
Ball in Sargent room anything about that
and I didn't want to bother you
either, so I paid \$17.76, for nothing,
just because I didn't want them to
bother me anymore. Anyway \$17.76 is

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nothing if I consider the scholarship
I got from your government, your
People to go to the States. I thank
appreciate your kindness and your
goodness to me, and I tried to
forget what People in Columbia
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 # 0058888
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 them.

I Would like to say "thanks" 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 understood me then.

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 Viet Nam
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 ² letters from
Mr. Beril, my advisor, and Dr.
Brennan, one of my professors in
Mich. Tech. School. I was so happy

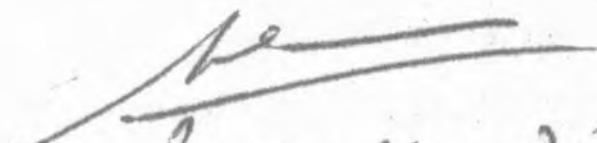
The picnic we had, under
the rain, comes to my mind
very often, what a wonderful
time! I enjoyed it very much.
It was very sweet of you to pick
me up and take me home, thank
a lot, Dr Austin.

4) I would like to write to Mr. and Mrs. Smucker, but I don't have their address, I'm going to ask them 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


Nguyễn - Kim - Định
Lê Tân - Thành
Cholon
Việt - Nam

Saigon, Nov. 28 - 1960.

Dear Mr. Austin.

I got your letter quite some time but I have been very busy that I write 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 Viet Nam, in the States and in other countries (I write them).

When we first came back home, the whole Vietnamese group (who ^{was} ~~were~~ to Mich. State University) had a meeting, and Mr. Pham van Kyjnh 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 none 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 excited 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.

Dieth

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