

Transcription of the Diary of President James H. Albertson, January 2-March 20, 1967

Monday, January 2

Enplaned – S. P. 6:05pm

Number of people from WSU to see me off – Haferbecker, Bill, Stielstra(?), Yambert, Jenkins, Vickerstaff\*, Radke\*, Runke(?), R. Anderson (cons.), J. L. Teate(?), Gosh/Gach(?), & Willetts.

Channel 9 (Red Wurdell?) took brief news clip for 10 p.m. news.

Said goodbye to family at home – hard on Jan and children - toughest for them because they stay home and carry on while I'm away. Strange that my love for them – that makes going away most difficult is also a part of the reason why I felt compelled [*sic*] to go because I do love them. Will always remember the many fine expressions of so many – in bidding me fair well.

Tuesday, January 3

6:22 ?

We are airborne at 11:45 - with E.T. flight time 6 hours and 22 minutes - Pickett meet us at O'Hare – with passports – Group is excited and while conversation is light I notice nervous quality in discussions – plane is about 40% occupied. I feel the beginning of the challenge of our trip – what will our success be.

On time at Anchorage – Kurt – Shipman's son-in-law met us and took Howard, Harry and I on quick trip.

In Tokyo at 5:51 p.m. local time – plane full of military bound for Korea. Problems leaving customs – no visa for outside of Tokyo area- made it - finally – into Osaka at 7:45 and then by car to Kyoto and our hotel.

Wednesday, January 4

Missed – international date line

Thursday, January 5

Fascinating Japanese style room in good hotel.

Spent day sightseeing – Inaba Cloisonne Co., Uchida Woodblock Printing Co., Damascene Jewelry, KinKaku-Ji Temple, Golden Pavilion, Tatsumura silk mansion, pottery mfg., Niso Temple.

Harry & I took steam bath – wonderful experience.

Tempura for lunch – excellent - Sukiyaki for supper – good.

Concerned about Pickett – he is not looking (?) into things – we'll see how he works out in Saigon.

To bed at 10 p.m. tired after a very full day.

Friday, January 6

Harry & I started out walking – trying to find Japanese department store – he was navigating – we walked for two hours and never found the store – we did go in the museum of modern art – an exhibit of contemporary American painting. Imagine – seeing it in Kyoto Japan!

Hotel for lunch then Larry took us to train station – wonderful experience on super express – talked with Japanese business man- as we rode 3 hours 50 minutes to Tokyo – train was full of people returning to home after holiday.

Then our plane ride to Hong Kong and the Miramar Hotel.

Saturday, January 7

Saturday a.m. spent in having suit measured (in my case it was sport coat & trousers. Then we looked at silk and I sent some home to Jan & Cindy – beautiful furniture – solid- at reasonable prices was next – Howard purchased & rest of us looked.

Our afternoon the others took sightseeing trip of Hong Kong & Kowloon – I walked down to waterfront – took many pictures – and also purchased screen for mantle of home.

Evening we spent with H. H. Wong's - they as our guests at Golden Crown restaurant – fine meal & even better company!

Sunday, January 8

Up early for departure to Saigon – fine lunch aboard Air Vietnam Caravelle – seat mate a Malaysian secret police – Landed about 1:30 p.m. - rather warm & took about 45 minutes for luggage to come in from plane – then we were through customs and to the Ly hotel – located on Chien Si – just across from our “office” in the rectorate of the University of Saigon.

Our quarters are very good – air conditioning, fan, private baths – hotel is new & leased by AID from a Chinese land owner & hotel “developer.”

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Dr. La Follette's with some personnel from AID. We are here.

Monday, January 9

A.M. spent with AID

Personnel – photos, forms filled out, etc. in preparation for ID cards, PX privileges, etc.

At 11 a.m. I went with Bob La Follett to his apartment – speak until 3 with him going over back ground materials that he has collected – will prove to be invaluable in our study.

At 3 p.m. Harry B. & I started what turned out to be 2 frustrating hours trying to get per diem resolved – ended up by Winer sending a friendly(?) cable & I doing the same to Bill V.

~~Last~~ evening we had dinner at the International House – followed by a meeting in the room – re: plans for tomorrow.

Tuesday, January 10

Drivers on strike – we walk.

9 a.m. briefing with Winer, La Follette at our rectory conference room – we received good background data regarding our country's involvement in Education in VN – concentrated on classrooms, teachers, & books. La Follette gave us a challenge regarding our mission –

3:30 in afternoon we met with Minister of Education, Dr. Nguyen Van Tho, who is also Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, later I met with the assistant rector – U. of Saigon.

Both of these men were forthright & direct in wanting a strong set of recommendations from us –

- 1) Local autonomy balanced by national purpose
- 2) Faculty resources used to greater extent than is presently done
- 3) Ed closer to people – land grant concept strengthened

Wednesday, January 11

Today we traveled to Thu Duc – site of future U. Of Saigon. Presently a laboratory school and bldgs. for faculty of pedagogy.

Lab school 410 children – 260 of these boys – faculty of 30 – faculty student ratio of 1-15 – most unusual for VN where it is typically 1-60 or 1-75.

Very impressed with faculty & program.

Very much alive – Pedagogy not in its quarters because area is not secure.

V C come in at night.

While we were at Thu Duc there was bombing & shelling in distance.

In afternoon we went to PX and purchased some supplies.

Our per diem is all messed up hope to clear it up tomorrow.

Thursday, January 12

Two meetings with Robert Culbertson, Deputy Director of USAID – in his case he is technical person

First meeting revealed his strong interest in & support of higher education. Stated that we are winning this military war – must contribute to second war - & should not wait but rather implement now full scale program of higher education.

This came through strong in second meeting with him & full team. Spent most of first meeting trying to resolve problems with our contract & per diem – he was hopeful - talked with Alvin Hardy(?) – Deputy to Winer in USAID Education – he was too much a bureaucrat – but Winer was helpful and I am hopeful that a special cable & PIOT will resolve this situation. Supper at Mayfair restaurant.

Friday, January 13

Furniture arrived and we set up our office quarters in rectorate – men “drew straws” for desk locations – then they were settled. Interesting that Art Pickett insisted on lottery idea & then he drew the poorest location - so insisted that there be a change! – So it goes.

Major trip to PX – ice chests purchased – one for office & one for hotel – stocked with coke, etc... for afternoon breaks & evening relaxation hours. We are slowly becoming a group and I am anxious for us to get materials.

We spent afternoon going over area assignments & discussing possible approaches to study.

Saturday, January 14

Started with a fine conference with Rector Ho – of Can Tho – much impressed with this man – a biologist (good too I am told) we are scheduled to go to Can Tho via Air America on Friday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Rest of morning I spent getting materials together for office supplies – typewriters & secretary arrive on Monday.

Lunch with Robert La Follette - & several hours cataloging his materials that I brought back to Rectorate with me – Team members anxious to secure & spent from 4-6 p.m. going over some info made available.

Early dinner and then relaxation hour and bridge in my room at Ly hotel.

Sunday, January 15

A.M. to be spent in walking & picture taking – Harry has mild stomach cramps so he stayed in – Howard wandered off – must stay with group or we may have an unpleasant incident.

Church at 11:00 at International Protestant Church – very fine & quite impressive.

Mel purchased flowers for Miss Smith and we obtained a pot of greenery for table – now we are beginning to look more like an office.

Afternoon spent in background reading & preparation for survey.

Slight change of pace on Sunday is good & we notice in community too – Letter off to Bill Vickerstaff with final expense voucher.

Monday, January 16

Miss Jean Smith – our secretary for two weeks arrived – good to have her aboard.

We are beginning to look like an office.

Spent morning making first visits to Deans Tan (Pedagogy) and Tai (Architecture), in preparation for meeting Thursday.

Dean Tan anxious to push idea of unified teachers college – elem. & secondary – I suggested we wait until we know more about the situation.

Dean Tai was quite uncomfortable – seemed to be nervous. But I guess I would have been too.

His facilities are very inadequate. Crowded – 1,000 students – 4 classrooms – drawing class working under very difficult conditions.

Met Marion Klein – from CSC days – he is AID direct hire – working at Nha Trang – with procedure? chiefs in ed. Good dinner with him & most interesting conversation.

Tuesday, January 17

Today mostly spent in meeting and talking with Deans of the faculties of Medicine (Tam), Law (Hach), Pharmacy (Nien) and Science (Tu) – Medicine – very fine bldgs – most impressed with dean – dynamic & quite perceptive. Also impressed with deans of Pharmacy & Science – looking forward to greater intercourse with these gentlemen.

Have an appointment on Wed. 5 p.m. with Mr. Herrick – embassy – AID representative who has info re: man power.

Contrary to PIOT we have been denied certain PX privileges – oh well – so it goes. Frustrating to have one thing explained to you in Washington and by officials here – then to experience another upon experience? application here.

Ready for a break tonight - & letters to office & home.

Wednesday, January 18

Meetings today with Dean Hood – faculty of Letters and Mr. Merrick – USAID – Economics, Dean Hood – French Literature - Frank – very fine personality – interested in what we plan to do – he came to his office even tho it was a Buddhist holiday & school was closed”

The p.m. was spent in the office – until 5 p.m. when I met with Mr. Merrick.

He had some data that should be helpful and he gave us some economic data – demographic.

Dinner at Cheap Charlie's – letters written to office & family – now to sleep.

Thursday, January 19

Our big meeting with Rector De & faculty Deans and counter parts – It seemed to go quite well and we came out of it with a schedule for Jan. 30 – Feb 6 to visit all the facilities. It was interesting to see dynamics of group at work – power in medicine & law. Letters Dean out spoken but also seems to be a “loner” in the total group.

Very fine visit to Van Hanh - Buddhist university. Much impressed by Rector Venerable? Chou (Chow) – His program and the new building they are constructing – Particularly the meditation area on top – gardens – water running – mediation room – but no conversation & only view is up – to shut out the world & enable men to meditate. Mild dysentery today.

Friday, January 20

Can Tho

Up at 0500 – left hotel at 0600 & left airport with team. La Follette & Duc – arrived in Can Tho – 0800 and Rector Ho and staff were on hand to meet us.

Good briefing at Rectorate Dean Xuan (Swan) and Rector Ho – very good meeting – all of us impressed by promise & challenge of Can Tho – an Univer. with a future.

Guests at an excellent luncheon – Chinese dinner – invitations in French, guests of Vietnamese?

Afternoon spent with USAID – Briefing & tour

Flew back over action – some tanks firing, etc... unreal

Mel took off in army hospital helicopter for village to spend night with Paul. Will return 1800 tomorrow. Very proud of how he is adjusting to our work & these people.

Home by 1930 - dinner – a good shower and in bed after letters home.

Saturday, January 21

First part of a.m. spent in getting set for team meeting in afternoon – then errands – USOM-1 for \$ – APO stamps - olympic? meeting with Winer – La Follette - Winer dropped a bomb – wants us (WSU) to extend contract – to do recommendations for reorganization of all of education - elem, secondary & higher. Will meet again next tues to discuss – much to ponder over weekend!

Came back to Rectorate – “secret” news that Premier has received (forced) resignation of Dean Tam (med) and also dissolved the faculty council of medicine – will wait for more information – but this could be a shocker – apparently issue over language of instruction – key words Vietnamese – has been French in some med class.

P.M. meeting – discuss general outline – plans for future - rehash last 14 days – group feels I am working them too hard – will ease up some.

Sunday, January 22

Late rising (6:30) – went sightseeing to market area – took many pictures. There is a slightly different tempo here on Sundays - families out riding around - atmosphere in town slightly changed.

To church – lunch at International House – and rest & letters in afternoon.

Good to have a day of rest and relaxation.

Monday, January 23

Departed Air America 0700 for Dalat – weather was bad so we changed plans over Dalat (couldn't land) and went to Nha Trang - greeted by Ron Wine & Marion Klein – Old CSC friends – both USAID – Education.

Visited National Oceanographic Institute – 65 employees – 25 of whom are scientists.

6 or 7 labs – plus museum – greatly impressed by the dedication of staff and difficult conditions with which they work. One small ship – a single piece of this equipment or that. Yet a very fine director – Ph.D. from Univ. of Paris.

Nha Trang – excellent shrimp – lobsters – and a beautiful beach.

Home by 1700

Tuesday, January 24

Contract is here – or so I hear anyway – Per Diem is settled – we get \$8 plus housing – which is fine.

Talked with La Follette & Winer & Singletary re: proposal that we do overall master plan for all education. I outlined basic areas of concern & raised series of questions. Indicated that us (WSU) would have to be involved in discussion & I could go home at Tet to discuss & possibly to recruit. – will see.

Had plague shot – go back on Saturday for gamma globulin.

Excellent interview with Liem – Secretary General of U. of Saigon – 32 years old – very bright & most perceptive.

Wednesday, January 25

Departed Saigon 0700 for Hue – stopped at Danang for briefing with Ambassador Koren – he has doubts about our work at Hue – cautioned against any commitments being made - indicated we were going to a different political situation.

Many signs around Danang & Hue of closeness of war – went in combat uniforms – armored vehicles – etc... shelling quite close.

Rector Hoan – 30 years old – Ph. D. – U. of Paris in History – teaches 10 hours in addition to work at Rector.

Saw burned out USIS bldg. and U. S. consulate – left as is – for people to see daily as they pass.

Staying at hotel along banks of Perfume River – very interesting strange city – yet a beauty of its own.

Thursday, January 26

Univ. of Hue – Valiantly struggling to survive – little help from its govt. no assistance from ours – dedicated loyal men & women – who want the academic community to be free – of any political involvement & interaction.

Toured the facilities – talked with Deans – Rector An – afternoon spent in discourse with counterparts regarding the university and its work – problems: faculty (too few), books, equipment, facilities – But strong drive to exist & improve.

Guests for dinner – Vietnamese food – excellent discussion – regarding war – youth & the university. Country lacks organization – purpose – direction – leadership – they want those things & autonomy for education to be free. Valid & plausible – what a day!

Friday, January 27

Up before dawn – walked to MAR? U? for breakfast – toured Hue – tombs – palace of king – ancient imperial city – citadel – all very wonderful & representative of culture 150 years ago –

Flew back C46 – arriving at 1900.

Dinner with La Follette, Singletary, & Dr. Tolle – ed advisor to ambassador Koren – interested in our trip to Hue & I briefed him as much as possible – positive comments regarding our work there.

Saturday, January 28

All a.m. meeting with Rector Ho and Can Tho people – made good progress & they were open and anxious to understand our questions and respond to them. We gave them forms to be completed and hope that they are returned by Tet.

We hosted a luncheon for Can Tho people at Majestic Hotel – Howard Johnshoy handled the arrangements and did very well. We enjoyed a fine meal and had a good conversation.

To dispensary for Gamma Globulin shot – all went except Pickett – and then afternoon in office trying to catch up from work being gone.

Wrote to Vickerstaff re: per diem – I'll pay here out of foundation funds. Conroy arrives tomorrow.

Sunday, January 29

Vince Conroy arrived.

- Plane about an hour late and his luggage is some place in Japan – but he is here – needs rest.

Spent afternoon briefing Vince re: some of what we have done –

International House for buffet – too much to eat – will not return.

Good to loaf altho with meeting plane at noon, day “chopped up.”

Monday, January 30

Stacked schedule of visits to facilities of Saigon U. – Today it was Law – went in a.m. - general meeting – then toured 5 classrooms (6000 students) library and saw faculty offices – very inadequate facilities.

Small faculty (20) – problems in getting people – rely heavily on part time lawyer, etc. in city.

Considerable unrest over med school situation – Ky has wiped out faculty council – replaced by management committees – new dean to be appointed.

Tuesday, January 31

Had to push group pretty hard to get them to arrange follow-up appointments – don't know why Howard & Art are not “self starters” in arranging own schedules, etc.

Only 18 days (working) until end of phase I - and a long way to go.

Meeting with Med School this afternoon was anceled – due to problems there. Hope to get back soon. Tried to get team to follow up with law – finally got some action.

Dinner at REX – BOQ – beef - soup & salad – all for grand total of \$1.00.

Wednesday February 1

Visit with faculty of Pharmacy – good facilities - labs crowded – 96 students in some sections – 100 in others – dynamic quality of people readily apparent – Dean & faculty were interested in American \$ - aid – rather open about it.

Good reaction to Pharmacy on part of group – by & large.

Dinner at Minister of Ed. – very gracious host & hostess – 6 years in U.S. Views govt. as transitional – doesn't want dictatorship – Americans have made commitment – must stay & see it though.

Lovely meal – served under mango & guava trees – as bombs went off – in background – quite a contrast!

Thursday, February 2

Faculty of letters in a.m. - Science in pm felt that Hue is a dynamic aspect to both – altho seems to be some conflict between generations (older & younger faculty) at science. Science occupies space formerly held by secondary school. Labs very crowded – would be fairly good if they had either more space or fewer students. Recall seeing new building – partially completed at Tu Duc – for future home of science.

Dean of Letters quite open – responsive to questions & frank in responses.

Evening dinner at Fuji (Nippon) restaurant – tired but feel day has been good.

Men are tired – following last night's dinner - Tet will be good for group.

Friday, February 3

Architecture scheduled for this morning – but I had to ask the group to go ahead – USAID arranged meeting with Cuelter? re: our Per Diem – It has worked out very well. \$16.00 less 35% per day – (10.60) for in country – to be paid by me – Foundation will be re-imbursed. Have forms & will take back to Bill Vickerstaff.

Hardie (AID ed.) really is a frightened bureaucrat – tried to change position. Afraid he is totally inept.

Afternoon spent touring pharmaceutical laboratories – very good experience. 1<sup>st</sup> largest in Vietnam mfg. 100 products. 70 under foreign license 30 of our own. Govt allows to keep 8% profit. Retail is allowed 35%. Plant had 450 employees.

Dinner at home of a (2<sup>nd</sup>) plant owner. Very fine food & company – home at midnight.

Saturday, February 4

Part of a.m. spent in talking with Art Pickett – mother-in-law passed away this week – also he has a bad cold & has been under the weather – good to listen to him.

Wash D. C. gave clearance for my trip to States re: guidelines for ed. Will leave Tues if all goes as planned now. It will be a fast trip & my schedule will be full – but it is worth while and it will be wonderful to see the family.

Had a good team meeting in the afternoon – told them about per diem increase, relayed daily schedule. We talked about team writing & report of present status. It was a good give & take and attitude seemed to be good.

Relaxing evening – steak at BOQ – good – letter home & now ready to get a good rest.

Sunday, February 5

Toured the botanical gardens this morning – saw a number of lovely flowers – church service at 11:00 at International Christian Church – very fine service – helpful sermon and meaningful communion service.

Lunch at the International House and then walked home – along Nguyen Hue – the street of flowers (for Tet).

Took many pictures.

Worked on papers & also slept for about 30 minutes. Afternoon nap helped.

Some of us walked down to BOQ for supper.

Many explosions – Terrorist activities have increased - hope we make it through Tet ok.

Monday, February 6

Faculty of Dentistry this morning – saw many student demonstration signs – in favor of Vietnamese teaching language.

Excellent facilities – good equipment – said they needed more faculty – graduating 30 & would like to graduate 100 per year. All male grads taken by army.

Afternoon spent in office – cleaning things up for trip to US – tomorrow –

Picked up plane ticket & am all set for 1100 departure – all goes well will be in Chicago 2330 (Chicago time) Feb 7<sup>th</sup> & home mid morning on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

It will be a whirlwind trip but worth doing & wonderful to be with family.

Tuesday, February 7

Departed at 1100 for trip to U. S. – To see if we want to take on added responsibility – development of guidelines for the reorganization of elementary and secondary education.

Return Feb 13<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, February 8

[No Entry]

Thursday, February 9

[No Entry]

Friday, February 10

[No Entry]

Saturday, February 11

[No Entry]

Sunday, February 12

[No Entry]

Monday, February 13

Plane due in at 1150 – arrived at 1400 – Admin.? – McPhee – Board of Foundation – all said “go ahead” with additional project – good recruitment of staff & much to be done but we’ll do it.

Found group ok – Mel, Don, Howard & Art – all went to Singapore over Tet.

Two mortar shells just 3 blocks away this morning, too close!

Tuesday, February 14

Early departure for Dalat – severe bounce on runway in landing – looked at Catholic Univ. – National Atomic Energy Institute & Military academy. Group impressed with university - beautiful location – seem to have good program going – 1600 students.

Atomic Institute rather pathetic – good elementary? reactor– US money for equipment – short staff.

Military academy – talked with Col. DeKay – “Training leaders of Tomorrow” – “a second West Point” it too has a beautiful location – but program too American.

Wednesday, February 15

Day spent in office – working on “starting” draft – group discussion.

Attempted to “Clear air” regarding contract – Ron Beattie seems to think govt. pays, pays, and pays – his pit is bottomless and his credo seems to be more & more for less & less. I finally became exasperated & said I wanted to get this return trip resolved once & for all – So we will give attention to our work. Too much time & too many interruptions in getting visas, tickets, etc. etc.

Thursday, February 16

Conference with Winer – WSU will accept Elem-Secondary study – I’ll start tomorrow on PIOT draft – much to do on present assignment – want to keep my mind free so I’ll get PIOT out of the way as soon as possible & listen to Eagon regarding next steps to take from campus.

Wall has some problems regarding salary – wrote to Vickerstaff regarding – he needs to do a more thorough job in figuring.

Light meals – good brisk walk home - letters written & now reading done.

Conroy, Johnshoy and Pickett off for follow up to Hue – They will be gone until Sunday.

Friday, February 17

Visit to school of Agriculture not a part of U of Saigon but under Minister of Ed. – aprox. 380 students - programs in agronomy, vet medicine, forestry. Two bldgs. – 30 full time & 40 part-time faculty. Small plot of land for plants for identification.

Prepared PIOIT for elem secondary project – gave to Winer will work on over week and & give me a copy on Monday.

Harry, Ron & Mel went to Van Hanh this p.m. – for follow up.

Tent. schedule of meetings with Univ. Council – Saigon – on 24<sup>th</sup> must prepare agenda to move from present status – raise substantive questions to orientate to future.

based on what we now know – without offending – hope it works.

Saturday, February 18

60 Days to Go

All set to go to Nha Trang – but Caur(?) – our driver overslept – so we stayed here (Harry & I) and managed to get a lot more accomplished. I was disappointed – but the trip was not essential and therefore we could miss it.

Late in the afternoon I walked down town – just moseying around – good to be pressure free – and under no deadline on time commitment.

Played cards with three others & to bed by 9 p.m.

Sunday, February 19

A good day – church was very good – the sermon especially helpful – basic idea that church is not a hospital where you go and lick your wounds – but rather an arsenal – where you put on your armament for the battle against evil.

A few hours work in the afternoon – then our group returned from Hue – good to have them back - Vince & Howard very enthusiastic – Art's reaction was predictable.

Steak dinner at REX – walked home – a good relaxing day.

Monday, February 20

Early a.m. session with Ohio people – they are going to Can Tho – also wanted to get info re our project and how the two fit together.

Spent rest of day preparing for group meeting.

Outlined next steps – Howard presented his ideas regarding preliminary report outline – well received by all except Art – he “wasn't sure” I pushed him into making a draft of his ideas – we will see if he does – for Friday meeting. Now we are approaching the crucial point - creative - imaginative work to be done – we'll see who produces.

Tuesday, February 21

Still trying to track down manpower data - met for an hour and ½ with man working in labor – AID - Jim Metcalf – very fine person & competent but they are putting all effort on “blue collar” workers – since that is area of greatest demand.

Received from Winer typed copy of PIOT re: elem secondary project – he is excited about prospects and anxious to see it through. Harry, Vince, Ron & Mel off to Can Tho – for revisit there. Will return tomorrow. Rector Ho flew with them.

Wednesday, February 22

Met with Dr. Piem re agenda for Friday’s meeting with Univ. Saigon counterparts. All set. He is anxious for our report – wants us to stay to help assure change. He is going to spend 13 weeks in U. S. – starting mid April.

1100 meeting with Overton – head of Asia Foundation here in Vietnam – they are spending \$350,000 this year here – anxious to get a copy of our report – want to see changes made – concerned that U of Saigon might not be able to change.

Group returned from Can Tho – successful experience.

Interesting way to spend George Washington’s birthday – not another like it!

Thursday, February 23

Working on agenda for Friday’s meeting – discussion with R. La Follette regarding – also meeting with individuals on team regarding direction report might take – some who feel it should recommend us change (Pickett) others who feel it should recommend dynamic change & growth – will put my weight behind the latter – change is necessary and must come for these people – if they are to survive in contemporary world as independent nation – or so it seems to me -

Monday, February 24

Day of meeting with Univ. of Saigon colleagues – went quite well – they seem to be interested in assessment of strengths and weaknesses – want to see some changes – hope they are receptive to changes beyond “things” – new facilities, books, equipment.

Electronic translation set up helpful – at least we could all hear and that meant a great deal.

Next 14 days will tell the story of the success or failure of our report.

Saturday, February 25

Interesting interview in afternoon with Dr. Robert Jacobs – USAID advisor to South East Asian Ministries of Education – came in from Bangkok. Thinks there is a major commitment on part of U. S. to SE Asia and is heartened by changes in this area in past 10 years. Feels the ingredients for cooperation are here and is looking forward to regional developments to avoid some duplication & be inter-nation in scope.

Evening – I hosted group to dinner – included R. La Follette – we are half way through our work – good to look at the down hill side of calendar!

Sunday, February 26

Very disappointed in H. Johnshoy – all agreed to complete survey material by yesterday – he did not finish – talked with him this a.m. – didn't know when he would be done. Seems to want to go on his own – and also to destroy authority over him. These warnings given to me at Ball State – also Tampa Florida – yet friendship prevented me from believing – yet it may be true.

Result – we (I) cancelled 1400 meeting today & rescheduled for 0700 tomorrow. We were to discuss & agree upon outline to follow in preparing preliminary report.

Church was again helpful & meaningful to me.

Monday, February 27

0700 session regarding proposed outline – Vince Conroy took suggestions & wove them together into a brief – clear-cut & rather concise statement – we discussed briefly – then hit again this afternoon – will tackle once again tomorrow a.m. - & we should be set. I feel good about the way it is beginning to shape up.

Part of group went to Phu Tho Tech School this a.m. – seemed to be impressed with what they saw and the several Stout graduates they met.

Catholic student demonstration this evening – at 1880 & again at 2025 – orderly yet protesting the possible softening of war against North Vietnam.

Tuesday, February 28

Got the per diem checks and forms ready & distributed. As February ends I look to one more month – and completion of report. Perhaps the time will go by rapidly?

Difficult session with team attempting to outline final (preliminary copy) report – we are groping and still trying to identify words & \_\_\_\_\_?.

Vince Conroy is emerging as a key person – good mind and he writes well – we may lean very heavily on him.

Wednesday, March 1

Another “bad day” in the sense that we agreed in a morning session on an approach – but at afternoon session which was long & hot – Art did not do his assignment and became very obstinate about it. I finally directed him to do it a certain way & he stormed out.

Advised by all us to be more autocratic & tell the men what to do. Interesting – a week ago some persons were indicating I was too autocratic.

Group to Charles Sweets for buffet – along with VN students. Sweet works with VN youth (AID direct hire) – all but Art Pickett attended – an interesting and worth while evening.

Thursday, March 2

Finally broke the log jam with our report outline – set up 6 basic problem areas – assigned them to team members – and they are to write on them – definition of problem – conditions that exist demonstrating problem is real – and suggested solutions. All – established Sat. at 1400 as deadline for copy to be circulated & group meeting at that time to discuss. Some thought deadline was too far away – others (Harry) too close. But it is established and will work toward it.

All - expected to circulate “suggested solutions” to each other by 1000 tomorrow.

Now we will see how it goes.

Friday, March 3

Purchased gifts for Mr. An’s wedding.

Also appointment with McDonald (USAID) – Chief - seems to be interested in our project. Altho didn’t want to talk specifics.

Don Luce IVS head spent time talking about their problems with embassy & teacher at Hue – they have been ordered out – a serious mistake in our judgement - Luce may resign over it – that would cause serious repercussions.

Dinner with Father Luan original rector at Hue. His English not good & our VN no good so some difficulty in talking but worth while evening anyway.

Saturday, March 4

All day spent in discussing the 6 problem areas and the papers the men did in developing their problems and solutions.

It was a long session – some exchange of ideas also some speech making and an occasional flare of temper – but we got through the day - still as one group – now Vince takes over on the writing. I am so glad he is one of us – a lifesaver. My job now is to give him freedom & resources to work. But I am more optimistic than I have been for some time.

Sunday, March 5

Jack Clevenger arrived

Church – a fine sermon on Simon Peter. “I call you Simon for that is what you are – I call you Peter for that is what you shall be!! Very helpful!

Rest of day spent in meeting with Howard, Don & Mel to outline areas of final part of preliminary report. Then we went our separate ways to work on outline suggestions.

This next week will be hard but I can go now and we will give it all the resources we have.

Monday, March 6

Good outlines from Howard – Don & Mel had some good ideas too now I’ll try to bring together but I’ll rely heavily on Howard’s.

Vince is moving well with draft of report – check from time to time.

Art is typing copy for Vince and that is good. They (Art & Vince) came down mid afternoon wanting to go to Hong Kong between 15-19<sup>th</sup> of March. I said NO – not until final report is complete!

A good day tho.

Tuesday, March 7

Another fine day - things are moving along quite well – If we keep this pace we will be “out of the woods” by Friday. Vince does very well in developing ideas into copy.

Harry is working on history and the rest are proofreading and checking copy for errors (unused graph stencils).

Met with Florida group & had them in for social hour. They want Ag at Saigon – we are recommending Can Tho – on other points we are in agreement.

Wednesday, March 8

Still working on the preliminary report – This slowed down some but am hopeful none the less.

The group has rallied around and are accepting and doing their work very well.

It will be good to get it done!

Thursday, March 9

Another day at the preliminary report draft – and still the pressure is on. I wish we had time to let up and then come back to it – this writing shows the pressure and isn't as good as it was the first of the week.

Perhaps we can improve after the preliminary is finished.

Added assignment – Embassy is going to consider U of Hue at meeting on Monday – want a position paper from us, will do tomorrow.

Friday, March 10

We made it – our pre-report is completed and the draft is being typed on mimeo – now if they can duplicate it in time we will clear our next deadline. I am anxious to read it all together.

Dinner with Dr. Ahng – Professor of Math in the Faculty of Science. BA from U of Kansas and Ph. D. in aeronautical engineering from Cal Tech. He had Vince & me at his home for dinner. We shared some of the items in our report & he reacted to them. Quite tightly controlled – yet increased my interest in how the Vietnamese will react to us.

Saturday, March 11

Materials still at mimeograph so team members took off for PX and then off at noon for the weekend.

I prepared with team help and turned in our position paper re: Univ. of Hue – Mission council (Westmoreland, Lodge, McDonald, et al) all to consider on Monday. All recommend reestablishment of relations to make Hue a model & a window to the north. Will see on Monday what decision is made.

Leisurely afternoon – soaking up sun at REX – swimming & letting down. It was welcomed.

Sunday, March 12

Phil's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday – red glads [gladiolas] in his honor at church – mid morning breakfast at REX – and rest of morning spent in being a tourist taking photos and strolling around business district of Saigon.

Nap and Letters in afternoon – then to REX for barbeque.

Monday, March 13

Got word of Walker Wyman's resignation - low pressure day – waiting for materials to come in so we could assemble – Finally came late afternoon – got preliminary reports all set to go – 0800 tomorrow – the next two weeks are going to be fascinating – getting responses, etc.

Also visited faculty of fine arts – presented foundation with lovely painting – watercolor on silk.

Tuesday, March 14

Delivered 25 copies of preliminary report to USAID, 18 copies to U of Saigon, 5 to Can Tho and 7 to Hue – later to be delivered via Air America and USAID –

Late afternoon meeting with Minister of Ed. – he likes our report – wants to move – needs a little more specific details – very courageous.

Visited Studio of M. Minh – Vietnam's most outstanding painter – ended up buying one of his paintings and one of his wife's.

Wednesday, March 15

To faculty of medicine this a.m. good tour – excellent facilities.

Spent PM in office – working on paper and waiting for rest of report (appendix) to come in so team can work on it.

Part of group went to Pedagogy (visual) school – while Howard and I stayed at office.

Cable from Bill V. indicating Bangsberg's proposed trip to Ceylon has to be cleared with local mission - why that took 6 weeks I don't know.

Thursday, March 16

Total team left early for Bien Hoa – 20 miles NE of Saigon & site of Ceramics School – very interesting ride out & back – many tanks, armored personnel carriers, etc. – also good visit to two programs, comparable to our Jr. Hi & H. S. levels.

Afternoon most fascinating – went to Minhs – saw their studio – more paintings – then to visit two Chinese painters one classical other scrolls – Then to a Chinese Buddhist Pagoda – and dinner at Chinese restaurant. A fascinating afternoon and evening with delightful people.

Friday, March 17

A.M. to Pha Fo technical school – programs in electricity, wood, sheet metal, metal, forging, auto work, ceramics, home economics, business, 4 or 5 Stout state graduates!

Afternoon writing letters to elem secondary team – also conference with RLF re: publishing report – he is very supportive – good suggestions.

Late afternoon team meeting re: next week's schedule & time until we finish April 5<sup>th</sup>. good session.

Team guests of An & Wife on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor regarding wedding celebration. Quite a day.

Saturday, March 18

Nha Trang

Mel, Harry & I enplaned at 0630 for Nha Trang. Vince not well so Mel went. Spent morning at oceanographic institute with Dr. Hai – saw aquarium & land areas.

Afternoon & evening with Ron Wine & Marion Klein – touring Cham temple (12<sup>th</sup> century) rock hunting along beach and swimming & sunning.

Harry & Mel down with "trots"

Ron & Marion are fine men - without much to do. Changes in OCO, etc. have taken away chances for initiative and creativity – sorry state to see them going to seed – with so much to do.

Sunday, March 19

Nha Trang APO 96240

Up early – out to Institute with group & Miss Hoa and Miss Olsen. Tour aboard oceanographic boat – around islands in harbor and out to one island for skin diving and shell hunting.

Back in time for lunch at Chinese restaurant – afternoon spent talking – Miss Hoa – very fine Vietnamese family - father a Mandarin – parents killed by communists at Hue. Very tragic fare.

Plane trip back uneventful others did meet a Leo Lossen/Lassen/Larsen? from Wisc. Rapids – here re: agriculture.

Evening meeting with Duc & \_\_\_? – Saigon wants to delay meeting re report to April.

Monday, March 20

Most of a.m. spent with Rector De – the Saigon Council wants meeting 1 April – object to governing board – compromised on date – will meet Sat. of this week.

Three hour session with USAID personnel on report – good discussion & general support from them of our ideas & approach. Scott Hammond is here – will spend time with him later.

Evening “party” for Jack Clevenger – his birthday.

Picked up pictures from Minh – now must prepare them for mailing home.