

May 18, 1959

Mrs. George Kimball
304 River Road
Oscoda, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Kimball:

I am prepared to give you a final report on the George C. Kimball Memorial recently dedicated in Vietnam.

As I told you in my first letter, the American and Vietnamese staff of Michigan State University in Vietnam in an effort to show their appreciation for George, decided to establish some kind of memorial to him. A total of 54,700 piasters, equivalent to \$780.00 US, was donated by our staff in Vietnam and a few of the former American staff who have returned to the United States. While the money was being raised, a committee composed of American and Vietnamese staff investigated with the local police with whom he worked, what might be the most appropriate type of living memorial, something that would be in line with his interests, something that while it was being used during future years, would remind the users that a friendly American advisor had served among them.

Last August George attended with several of us the dedication ceremonies of a new police Boy Scout camp down at the seashore about 80 miles from Saigon. He was very impressed with what the police were providing for their scouts on their own. The committee, took a suggestion of the Chief of the Saigon Police, and recommended the purchase of additional land adjacent to the Scout Camp that would include a stream, waterfall and wooded area, thus enlarging it so that it would be more useful. The Chief found the owner and was able to get a good buy. There was sufficient money to provide an appropriate plaque which has been set in a huge boulder on the property.

On Sunday, April 19, at 11:00 o'clock, brief but impressive dedication ceremonies were held at the site. It was well attended by members of Michigan State University staff although it was a very hot day. The Chief of the Saigon Police gave a very good talk, a translated copy of which

is enclosed. I was asked to make a response speech, copy of which is also enclosed. After the speeches the plaque was unveiled, by pulling back the Vietnamese and American flags which had covered it, by the Police Commissioner in charge of the scouting movement. The whole program was well covered by the press and newsreel cameramen. Many of the local papers carried stories and pictures and the newsreels are now being shown in the local theatres. VOA (Voice of America) radio stations in Asia carried the story as well. This had a human interest angle which has emphasized the good Vietnamese and American relations. Evidence of this is the fact that Radio Hanoi, the communist propaganda station in the north, has picked up this incident, distorted it and rebroadcast it back to the people in South Vietnam, claiming that the Chief of Police stole the money from government coffers, made the purchase, and then gave the Americans credit.

Following the ceremonies we had a very good six course Vietnamese dinner provided by the Police of Saigon, served in one of the new buildings erected on this Boy Scout camp site.

I am enclosing a set of pictures taken by one of the press services which I thought you would like to have.

The memory of George Kimball's services to the police of Vietnam and of his fine personality will linger on in the minds of his hundreds of friends in Vietnam for many years to come. I believe everyone who has had anything to do with his memorial agree that it is as fitting a tribute as could have been made to him by his many friends on our MSU staff.

We will be returning to Michigan this summer and will look you up when we have the first opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD W. HOYT, Chief
Police Administration Division

Enclosures

- The Chief of the Police Administration Division,
- Members of the MSU Advisory Group,
- Honored guests,

My first words today are to express my sincere thanks to the MSU Group for its kindness in dedicating this property to the Municipal Police Boy Scout Association in the name of the late Mr. George Kimball, one of the kindest advisors of your Group.

Speaking of the name of George Kimball, our respectful specialist, we cannot help being deeply touched. From the farthest continent of the United States of America, Mr. George Kimball came to us at a right time, when our fatherland had just won its complete independence and was facing, in a complete lack of facilities, several problems of great dimensions. During our first difficult steps towards the consolidation of our force, it was a great chance for us to have at our side Mr. George Kimball who took over from Mr. Shelby, a good friend of the Municipal Police whose name we are honored to mention here today. Like Mr. Shelby, Mr. George Kimball had shown himself a good friend of the Saigon Police. In fact, he had given immense assistance in all fields to our organization. He had drawn his large experiences from his long services rendered to the American Police to fill our several points of weakness and deficiency. In the past few years,

although faced with many obstacles, Mr. Kimball had overcome all of his difficulties in order to help the Municipal Police obtain many considerable results.

You may probably know well that due to a poor municipal budget, the Municipal Police Department suffered from a great handicap caused by a lack of facilities for its routine operations: lack of transportation; lack of mechanical equipment, the minimum amount of equipment needed for any other police department to function; lack of weapons and ammunitions for the maintenance of order and security, etc... Sensing our great problems, Mr. George Kimball fought hard with the American Aid mission to get, for the Municipal Police, a part of the equipment reserved for other agencies. We wish to say frankly here that so far as the Police has been successful in its operations, it is partly thanks to the American Aid equipment that MSU Group, of which Mr. Kimball was a member, has supplied us.

George Kimball had fully accomplished the mission assigned to him by the American government. George Kimball had not betrayed the confidence and trust placed in him by the Chief Advisor of MSU, and particularly the Chief of the Police Administration Division.

Today, George Kimball is no longer of this world. His death has been a great loss to the Municipal Police. Before this heart-breaking separation caused by his death, we are

sorrowfully moved. Yes, how can we not be moved at the thought of our dear late friend who, by his love of this country, had given his last breath in this foreign land and gone into eternity without seeing for the last time his beloved family and having nobody close relatives at his side to close his eyes at his last moment! There is indeed not a more painful and heart-breaking situation than that!

However, although deeply sad, we feel very proud when we think that our fatherland, today, has the honor receiving in its very heart the soul of its most precious friend who, during his lifetime, had done a most creditable job to us. We believe that in the mysterious world where he is now, Mr. Kimball would happily smile if he knew that those who survive him in this land will, forever, be grateful to him.

Gentlemen,

May I say that Mr. Kimball has had a predestiny with our Police Department. In fact, had he not that predestiny, he would not have come to this country, and even so, he would peacefully leave us at the end of his term. He would not have closed his eyes and passed away just on the middle of his way in this City. This predestiny has also allowed you of the Michigan State University to decide to have his name imprinted eternally in the heart of this country.

Gentlemen,

When still alive, George Kimball had shown his most interest in the Police Boy Scouts, and his desire was to help

develop the Municipal Police Boy Scout movement. Today, his wish has come true. In this property and on the side of that rock, you will be satisfied to see the name of George C. Kimball remaining permanently with the green nature and impressed for ever in the mind of the Boy Scouts.

If later, in the future generations of the Vietnamese Police, somebody happens to come by this site, he will recall that in the winter of the year 1958, an American Police friend, coming from the other side of the Pacific, had given his last breath in this beloved country after having done his best to help the Vietnamese Police, during his living days as well as after his death.

We hope that this will be a great comfort to the soul of the dead and an encouragement for the survivors.

Mr. Hoyt,

Members of the MSU Group,

In the name of the Municipal Police and their families, I wish to express our deepest gratitude to you who have had the kindness in helping us materially to develop this camp, in the memory of Mr. Kimball on the one hand, and in making available to our Police children a much larger place for them to play and enjoy their happy days near the sea on the other hand.

Finally, to the family of Mr. George Kimball in the United States, we wish that this dedication will mark a great

comfort in their minds. They can be very proud of the great services rendered to the American Police by one member of their family Mr. George C. Kimball who had particularly won the most sincere and warmest sympathy of his friends in Vietnam.

Long live the Vietnamese American friendship.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY HOWARD W. HOYT, CHIEF
POLICE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, MSUG
SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 1959
ON THE OCCASION OF DEDICATION OF THE
GEORGE C. KIMBALL MEMORIAL

Mr. Director, Commissioners, police officials, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Policemen throughout the world are thought of in many different ways. To the mother in the home, police are thought of as the ones who will protect her children going to and from the market and school. To the man in the home, the police are the ones who will make and keep his country safe so that he can pursue his profession in peace and support his family. To the driver of the vehicle the police are the men who step into the street and very efficiently handle traffic congestion so that traffic again runs smoothly. To the criminal, police are hated because they retard or prevent his activities. And to the traffic violator, the police are the ones who force him by hear of arrest to comply with the regulations which are established to make the streets safer for everyone.

But not many of these people realize that the police the world over are nearly always found heading Boy Scout movements, helping orphanages, coming to the aid of fire victims, helping the poor and needy families, usually doing this in a quiet and humble manner.

We have found, in our four years working with the police of Vietnam, that this is also very true here. We know especially about your Boy Scout interests because we have had the honor of attending your scout functions every year.

Mr. George Kimball, in whose honor we dedicate this property today, was a typical policeman. While serving his 25 years with the Detroit Police Department where he rose through the ranks from the bottom to Inspector of Homicide, which is equivalent to Commissioner rank in Vietnam, he was always interested in helping those in need. When he came to Vietnam he continued to help those who needed help. He loved children and although he was not fortunate enough to have children of his own, he was always interested in the scout movement in Vietnam, especially with the Scout Troops that your police sponsor.

When George Kimball died, we all felt we had lost a very dear friend. We all wanted to do something that would show how much we thought of Mr. Kimball. Flowers are beautiful and do express sentiment at the time, but in a few days or weeks they are gone and often within a few years even the sentiments are forgotten. So we decided that we would prefer to express our feelings about the loss of our friend in some manner which would both last for many years and please him.

I can think of nothing that would please Mr. Kimball more than for him to know that because of his friendship, the money given to this fund has purchased property which will be used by children, whom he loved, for many years to come.

George Kimball was the type of man who did not like many words, but did appreciate deeds. If he were here today, he would be very pleased to know what has been done in his honor, but likewise would be pleased if fewer words were spoken about it.

We, the Vietnamese and American staff of Michigan State University here in Vietnam, wish to thank you, Mr. Director, for your advice on what to do for Mr. Kimball and for the honor you have bestowed on us, inviting us here today to help dedicate this property. We will always have closer ties, one with the other, because of today's dedication.