

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING • MICHIGAN • U S A

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OFFICE OF DEAN OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

October 20, 1961

Dr. Wesley Fishel  
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Chofu Minemachi Ota-ku  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Wes:

We hope that all is going well with you and that your research is moving along smoothly. With all of the news from Viet-Nam in the newspapers these days I am sure that you are spending a good deal of your time writing letters and reading news items.

The visit of General Taylor, the declaration by Kennedy about possibly sending troops to Viet-Nam and the recent declaration of an emergency condition in South Viet-Nam all add up to a rather bleak outlook in my opinion. Last night I had the dismal experience of viewing some movies from Viet-Nam on the Huntley-Brinkley news report. The movies showed various scenes of the guerrilla fighters torturing captives in order to get them to tell where the Viet Cong were hiding. In one scene the Vietnamese soldiers had a prisoner attached to some storage batteries and were jolting him with electric shocks. In the other scene, prisoners were being strung up until they talked. One of the prisoners was a girl. This was probably the most revolting sequence I have ever seen on a national hook-up. I think I have a pretty good idea of the kinds of things one must do in a guerrilla war but I found this to be very disgusting, particularly when the evidence is fairly persuasive that strong-arm tactics are less effective than the "carrot" approach.

For the first time I find that I get plenty of news about Viet-Nam. The New York Times has been providing very good coverage, but my first-hand supply is cut off since you have been away. I have had a letter from Bob Scigliano and Jim Hendry just returned from a short visit. Jim, as you know, has taken over from Ruben Austin. I also received a letter from Wolf written enroute to Europe after he had left Saigon for good.

There are many things happening in International Programs. Today we have Ambassador Udochi of Nigeria on campus for a one day visit with the Peace Corps group. We have 33 Peace Corpsmen heading for Nigeria and we are very pleased with their quality and with the training program we have put together for them. They are going to the University of Nigeria to serve as Junior staff members. They have been here for about five weeks of training and will spend the next three weeks at Gull Lake in additional training.

Next week Glen goes to Guatemala with Dean Erickson to look into a project in the field of educational research at the University of San Carlos. He will be gone about ten days and a week after he gets back he will be heading

Wesley

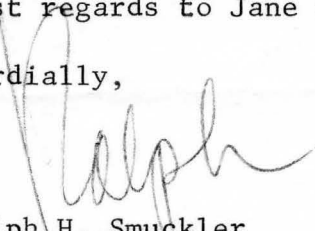
for the University of Nigeria for about three weeks. I planned to go to Nigeria this past summer but changed all of my plans because of the Peace Corps negotiations which came up very suddenly and demanded quite a bit of time.

Bill Ross is taking up where you left off on the Asian Studies Group. He is now drafting a statement for use in connection with the establishment of an Asian Studies Program or Center. The group has not convened this fall but the term is young and we do expect to have some good sessions during the year.

Let us hear from you about your research when you get a chance and give me your reactions to the Viet-Nam situation as it looks from Japan.

Best regards to Jane and the kids.

Cordially,



Ralph H. Smuckler  
Associate Dean

*Answered  
Nov 18, 61*

RHS:vh