

Telephone Conversation with Drew Sawin - April 24, 1975

W. W. Kerr

Drew called to say that he had sent a letter to the President on behalf of Doctor Bailey asking for special help. He could not get the letter to the President, but as he came back home, a call from Billy Graham indicated that Billy was very much concerned about the whole Saigon-Viet Nam situation. It appears that a young Vietnamese boy had come to see Billy Graham the night before in North Carolina and told him his story with great anguish.

Billy and his wife spent much of the night in prayer, and in the morning called Drew to see what could be done. Billy Graham has called T.W.Wilson, his assistant, and told him to get the family of this boy out of Saigon. His father is a pastor.

Billy Graham wants his name signed to the same letter Dr. Bailey has written to the President, so the letter now is being delivered to the President with both signatures on it. The President is supposed to be relaying the message to the Ambassador himself and to get these people evacuated from Saigon.

While Drew was still in the White House, the top General placed a call to Saigon to the Ambassador and was talking with him. According to protocol, Drew walked out at that time, having known that the call was already being placed. Drew then informed Billy Graham that this would be done tomorrow.

Billy Graham has agreed to charter a plane - World Airways plane - if necessary to go into Saigon and take the people out. Drew has already talked with the people on World Airways and they are prepared to do this.

Billy Graham is so excited about what the C&MA is doing. Our cable to the Ambassador asking for the help to release these 80 or 90 people astounded Billy. Billy intends to talk with Dr. Bailey about some \$400,000 in relief funds that he has for refugees there and wants to use most of it through the Alliance. Billy Graham plans to talk to the President at 10:30 p.m. tonight - Thursday. Drew feels that our problem in Saigon is with Jack - that is, he is afraid Jack may leave before all of this can be done. In fact, he may have already left, since we cannot get him on the telephone. The Ambassador has Jack's number in Saigon, and should call him. Jack should contact Mr. Nguyen Van Suu at 19 Pho Duc Chinh in Gia Dinh. This is near the airport and this is the father of the boy who talked with Billy Graham. He is a pastor of the Alliance church there. Jack, or someone, should go and send word to them and bring the 15 to 16 people staying with him to a central place. They are on Billy Graham's list to come out. It is best to have them at the International Church, even though the Embassy doesn't think so. Graham Martin is then supposed to send word to Jack Reville, and if not by tomorrow, then we will go back to Billy Graham again and let him work through the White House. So far the White House has promised to get this job done. All commercial flights have stopped into Saigon - it's urgent that we get a man in Clark Air Force Base as soon as possible so that we might get him into Saigon, if need be.