

S.A.R. Prince Norodom Sihanouk
Chef de l'Etat du Cambodge
Phnom Penh, Cambodge

*Rough copy for Mr. A
to look over.*

O.K.
S.R.

Monseigneur:

It is my very great honor to address this letter to you for your kind consideration. I have been greatly impressed by your efforts on behalf of all segments of the population in your country. Also, recently I have learned of your gracious assistance afforded two American families in securing information from the National Liberation Front in South Viet Nam relative to the well-being of Mr. Gustav Hertz and Mr. Douglas Ramsey. This has demonstrated very clearly your humanitarian concern for those who, in the performance of a service to their fellow-men, have become involved in the present struggle in Viet Nam. May I express my highest esteem and sincere appreciation for one in high office who has taken this personal interest in civilians suffering the misfortunes of war.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance, an international organization with representatives in many countries, has had missionaries engaged in social, medical, educational and religious programs in Viet Nam since 1911. At Banmethuot (South Viet Nam) we maintain a Leprosarium for the benefit of local residents afflicted with leprosy. In May of 1962 three individuals serving in this institution were abducted by representatives of the National Liberation Front. Miss Ardel Vietti, M.D., had served as Medical Director of the Leprosarium since her arrival in Viet Nam in 1958. In that capacity, she was well known throughout the region for her selfless service on behalf of others. Rev. Archie Mitchell accompanied by his wife and four children, had arrived to assume responsibilities as Superintendent of the Leprosy Control Program only about six weeks before the raid took place. Mrs. Mitchell and the family have remained in Viet Nam where she has made a significant contribution to the Leprosarium program. Mr. Dan Gerber, on loan to our organization from the Mennonite Church, had been associated with the work for about six months.

Repeated efforts by our organization to establish contact with the individuals or to secure detailed information concerning them have been unavailing. We are writing to request you, Monseigneur, through whatever channels may be open to you, to intervene on behalf of these three who have now been held captive for more than five years. Your intervention could be in a number of ways. First, may we respectfully request you to transmit the enclosed letter to Dr. Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Liberation Front in South Viet Nam. Second, we would be most grateful if you could make a direct appeal to Dr. Nguyen Huu Tho for the early release of these three individuals. Third, of inestimable value would be a request from you to the National Liberation Front that information be provided regarding the present condition of Dr. E. A. Vietti, Rev. A. E. Mitchell and Mr. Dan Gerber, and that pending their release, channels of communication be established between them and their families.

Thank you Monseigneur most sincerely for your esteemed consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,