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Report of Telephone Conversation with Dick Pendell of World Relief Commission
March 19, 1975 by W. W. Kerr

Mr. Pendell: We received a call from Stu Wolcotts in Saigon this morning - I'll give you a general run-down of what he had to say;

There are presently 1 million refugees in the country - half in the Danang area - the other half in the Nhatrang area.

Hue - Quite problematic - there are only 3 U.S. people left there - one a doctor. Refugees are moving out of Hue into Danang.

All Christian Social Service people are out of Hue.

Quang Tri Province has been given up.

Stu reports many people are leaving the Highlands - The C.&M.A. missionaries are assumed captured, rather than dead.

There is heavy fighting in Tay Ninh - about 60 miles from Saigon. It appears the government may draw the line across Viet Nam Highway 19. (It is the one that comes down across from Pleiku to Quinhon - it would indicate they are going to give up the upper half of the country. Quinhon is north and east from Dalat about 80 miles.

The American Consulate in Danang is maintaining daily contact with the World Relief hospital - if there are any problems there, they will get everyone out.

Stu reports that Dr. King and Mr. Mangham have already arrived there. (In Saigon). Stu is going to meet with them today and will let us know the decisions regarding the missionaries and their programs.

Mr. Pendell asked if we had heard anything - I told him that we have had no new information. He said to keep a watch on Dalat - it's an easy place to take and a hard place to get out of. It's indefensible. I told him that we expect to start getting reports from Grady and Dr. King by tomorrow.

World Relief had not had any word from the State Department - I assured him we would share any information we receive from them. He said that Stu would call again in a day or two.

Report of telephone conversation with Frank Sieverts of the State
Department in Washington, D. C. March 19, 1975

by W. W. Kerr

Mr. Sieverts reported that they have had only one very fragmentary report that said 4 persons have been captured. He said that puzzled them, because they consider that there are 9 missing. The report did not give names. It could mean that several have been able to evade capture, which he felt was quite possible since our people have such good contacts with the Raday people. There is a possibility of people hiding out somewhere.

He also said there was a broadcast yesterday on PRG radio referring to the 9 at Banmethuot, but not saying they had been captured. He said the State Department is really not in a position to make any judgement as to what has or has not happened.

He felt the overall situation looks about the same as before when he called. He also added that they feel the less anyone says publicly about it, the better.

WWK/esm