

NGHIEM-XUAN-THIEN
45B HIEN-VUONG
SAIGON.
SOUTH-VIET-NAM.

Saigon, January 3rd, 1963.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. VAN HINE,

Did you get my Christmas Card in Time? Normally, if it was not "pinched", as many of my letters were, it might have come to you in good time. By the middle of October, last year, I sent a letter to you also, but as there was no reply, I suppose that it has been "pinched". I had been jailed by the Ngô-đinh-Diệm Government for one year, from September 1961 to September 1962. It was the reason why some of your Christmas card or letter were not answered. I had been editor of a very popular Paper for a long time, in Saigon, after Geneva Conference. As I did not share many of the Government views, my Printing Press had been smashed, and a few scores of thousand of my Paper had been burned in the Street, then I was sued by the Court of Saigon, sentenced to an immediate closing of my paper, to 10-month suspended imprisonment, and to a VN\$100,000^{fine}. It was in the beginning of 1958. Last year, as I did not pay the fine, they nearly kidnapped me and brought me to an "Reeducation-Camp" near Saigon. It took my wife a long enough time to know where I was jailed, and to bring me supplies of food and clothes.

I think the "Strong man policy" so cherished by your Government has done no good in unhappy Vietnam, where now corruption, social injustice are rife. I am only a small victim of such a Policy, but millions of my countrymen have suffered much more than I did for more than 8 years.

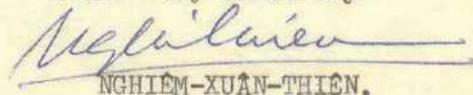
In the present time the situation, from the military point of view, is not too bad, but from the political and especially economical point of view, is rather gloomy.

I heard of your daughter and son-in-law being here, but had no opportunity to meet them. I wish I could some day.

May I seize the opportunity of this letter to renew you my best wishes for a very Happy New Year.

Hoping for an opportunity to see you again, I remain

Yours very sincerely:


NGHIEM-XUAN-THIEN.

P.S. AS there is a severe censorship - this is the reason why most of my letters were "pinched", don't say too much in you letters sent to me directly.