

Telephone Conversation with Drew Sawin - April 29, 1975

W. W. Kerr

FILE

- Drew: Tom has gone into Saigon, and as far as we know, he is still in. A large %age of the people we were going to go in for are here in Clark. It's a long list - I don't have it with me here, so I can't give you their names.
- WWK: Did Mieng get out?
- Drew: No, Pastor Mieng has voluntarily decided to remain, as far as we know. I just had a call to the White House, and they seem to feel that the Viet Cong are going to give at least another 24 hours - perhaps longer- to continue the evacuation.
- WWK: I just talked to the White House to ^{Rourke}~~Ruack~~ - the Deputy to Marsh - and he said the whole thing is falling apart and they are losing contact. The Marines have been pulled out of the Air Force Base, and they are hectically trying to get people out from the Embassy now.
- Drew: Well, that's true, but they're not firing on the aircraft. They have pulled back and are letting us continue the evacuation without actually shooting at us, and they don't know how long that will continue; whether it will be something very temporary, or whether it's going to last 3 or 4 hours, but they're not trying to keep us from evacuating our personnel.
- WWK: Did Franklin go in?
- Drew: No, none of us have gone in, we have all remained here.
- LLK: Did Tom go in?
- Drew: Tom went in 2 days ago. We don't know whether he is still there or not. We have tried to locate him here. Some of the people have been evacuated to ships, and others to Bangkok. We are trying to find out here where Tom Stebbins would have gone with the people who were at the International Church. We have been able to find out that that was one of the evacuation centers. If Tom was there with the people, he has no trouble - he got out somewhere, and we're waiting to night to find out just where he is.
- WWK: Jack Revelle is here with us now. We want to keep tabs about Tom, so anything you get on him, please let us know.
- Drew: We will. You may hear from me sooner than anyone else - or Donna Stebbins may, because I suspect wherever Tom is he is going to put a call through to her at the Guest Home in the Philippines and I told Donna to call us up here just as soon as Tom calls. My number here is 62-392- then tomorrow we will give you another number. This is where Dr. Phu is, yes. Many of the people got out - we have about 162 in one group, and 116 in another, then there are more in Guam and Wake.
- LLK: You mean 162 Christians? Drew: Yes. LLK: Now, what needs to be done is that the head of each family list himself, his wife, the number of dependents who are with him, and they are to list their relatives they have in the United States or Canada and give the address of that relative. We need that.
- Drew: The Red Cross has already done that for most of our people. Garth Hunt and Larry Ward came out with about 300, and Dr. Phu and others here are putting together a

complete list of the people they have as the Immigration Dept. wants it. Not only that, but they are then printed up on a computer, and they're all done by computer so that it all goes into the Immigration System.

WWK: Drew, we've had word through a ham radio operator last night that the missionary captives are in Saigon trying to get out. Have you heard anything?

Drew: No, I haven't.

WWK: This sounds quite reliable according to what Jack Revelle says, because it came from a Mr. Bob Brougham with USAID in Saigon who was a member of the International Church. So you might be watching for these people coming through to Clark, too.

Drew: We'll stay on top of that as well. Those who are not out apparently have made the decision to stay, or we weren't able to get to them.

LLK: Dr. Bailey is here and has just received a message from your wife, so he will talk with you.

Dr. Bailey: Your wife just called me and gave the report that you have given her that most of the people are out - that Pastor and Mrs. Mieng had decided to stay, and that you would be coming home by way of Guam, etc.

Drew: Yes, we want to bring back with us, as long as we are out here, as accurate a list of people who have come out. We may even go on to Wake Island and do the same because there are a number who are there.

Dr. B. She mentioned something about your coming on an orphan flight, or something.

Drew: Rather than going back on Pan American, (we have to pay for it), we were going to try to come back and take care of orphans, or anybody else. They have sponsors on these flights, so we decided to use our talents to sit on the floor like everybody else, and help in any way we can on the way back.

Dr. B. Arne mentioned that Tom Stebbins is still in Saigon?

Drew: We don't know that for sure - we had a report earlier this afternoon that the International Church was picked up - that was one of the evacuation points, but we don't really know. We do know that they do not seem to be bothering the helicopter evacuation. They've been giving us a little extra time to get our personnel out before they take over the city.

Dr. B. A personal matter - I have a nephew who has been trying to get a Vietnamese orphan for months and months and months. He has been cleared. If there should be any possibility of anything like that, it would be a great help to him, I know.

Drew: You probably know that there are a large number of Montagnard babies just arrived in Oakland. I don't know the whole scenario on that, but it's apparently a real effort to get them to stay in the U.S.

LLK: Franklin - is he going to stay and help there at Clark Field for awhile, or is he coming straight back?

Drew: That is really up to you.

LLK: I would like him to stay for as long as he feels he can. We do need to know the

families who have no relatives in the U.S. because we have some churches that want to have them settle and are willing to give them some accommodations. If we know how many families do not have a single relative, then we can help them and we need to know that, rather than wait weeks for Red Cross to unscramble this. Franklin is essential, with Dr. Phu, to find this out.

Drew: One of the things we will be attempting to do tomorrow is to (since we have such a large number of our people here in Clark) try to have them all put on one plane and sent back to Oakland.

LLK: We have accommodations there at Oakland to take care of them.

Drew: I know that, and this would take them out of this horrendous human mass there at Guam, but if that isn't possible - we haven't cleared that with Immigrations yet, and the first report I got was that everything was handled via Guam - if that is true, then everybody will have to go to Guam, and that will be about a 90-day process.

LLK: They told us at State Dept. it's going to take a long, long time, but in the meantime, Franklin should get to us the list of families with no relatives, and how many members there are to those families.

Drew: Now you're only interested in your pastors and Christians that came out?

LLK: That's all right now.

Drew: There are apparently some here who have joined since they're come out.

LLK: We'll let Dr. Phu and Franklin figure this out.

WWK: Drew, just a suggestion that maybe you ought to plan to call us periodically in case we can't get through to this one number - it may be a closed, or busy line.

Drew: I was going to call you tonight, but they had a whole mob over there, and I got a call to the White House, and then one to my wife - then they said I couldn't have any more.

WWK: Can we reach you at this number quite easily?

Drew: Yes, you can. I'll give you a number tomorrow, where Franklin and I can both be reached - we're both in the same room.