Wednesday

Dear North,

About an ordinary day in Buenos Aires. A few last-minute flakke and hazards, but nothing really too serious.

Your letter came with dear soups. I like both the color and the material very much.

Jean didn't know of the devaluation of the pound when he was here. I myself have been expecting this for some time. It has come at a particularly bad time for us. Despite what was said in Washington, we may yet have to devalue the dollar. It would be a real tragedy for many countries if we did this.

We had the monthly party downtown in one of the better hotels. It was a huge bore on the all are. Presentation of plaques & etc. on their departing and such garbage as that. We have to go down and rub elbows with all

hugs, papa' loving

33905
these bastards we hate, and pretend that
we like them.

Enclosed are a few Vietnamese stamps
for Stuart— one of our translators gave them
to me.

Hope all is well and that your book
is now nearing completion.

Love,

Jim
Dear Bob —

Nothing much new or startling today. Things go on and we go on “proving” that we’re winning. We are making progress in some areas. Watch infiltration through lees the next few months. I think we should try to step up our efforts to cut the termites down. Recent weeks. I don’t know anything about our air operations, but from recent press releases, it appears we are about to announce a major step up in our air offensive there.

One facet of the war which is often overlooked by writers on the subject is the tremendous increase in civilians here. McNamara stated some time ago that he intended to do this for a variety of reasons which seemed to hold water. One of these is of course, money. It seems to be cheaper to have civilians here in spite of their high pay. This is because of G.I. Bill and the fringe benefit which make military types come cheap. However, as usual, Mr. McNamara doesn’t tell the whole truth. Some of the other facts as follows: First, one of the major problems here is
As inflation of the Vietnamese economy, we have made some steps which are relatively effective in reducing the impact of our expenditures on the economy, such as the PX saving program, etc. through the PX and a bunch of other. However, a civilian has a much greater effect on the economy than a soldier. The civilians invariably have lots lots lots more disposable income and they do things like renting villas, buying cars (which most people are prohibited from doing) and such as that. Thus the civilians are to some considerable extent dependent on the military establishment for support. Thus use the commissions, the PX, the PX, the PX, the PX, and such as that. Given the huge ratio of support troops to combat troops (or civilians), the number of civilians increases greatly the level of support which the military must provide. Thus a number of civilians do not in fact replace the same number of soldiers, if one consider a combat troop and his support as an integral thing which they are.

The real reason for the civilianization of the war is of course to fool the people about how many people we have here to prosecute the
All which is normally published is the military force level figure, sometimes in conjunction with the other 'free world' force—
which, incidentally, we are supporting financially in toto—another fact which is not widely appreciated. And we have next to no control over their operations once they are here—or, perhaps more important in the long run, how they spend their money. Of course, we could always cut off the money to, say, the Poles, but this is politically impossible for anything except a truly extreme problem, one endangering the war itself.

Anyhow, if civilians do replace soldiers in some stated ratios, as they do, then somehow the number of civilians should be shown in conjunction with the military force. Have you ever seen this?

Standard office day, except less than usual to do. Took 2 hours for lunch and swam a bit. Went in town this afternoon and bummed some picture to decorate our room—big colored prints of many ships.
It's thundering and lightning tonight and is now commencing to pour down rain. It has rained for about 3 days straight now.

Enclosed are a couple more of the more wordscript pictures I took on route to Long Binh. I have two rolls of picture at developer plus two batches being duplicated here, the first of which I will get back tomorrow. So I shall be busfeated all long.

Love,
Jim

P.S. Would you believe KHONG CO COLA?