

Company

22 July 1964

Ref: WD-64-2138

Following letter addressed to each Director:

Admiral Felix B. Stump, USN (Ret.)
Valley Forge
Pennsylvania

Dear Admiral:

Attached are letters of commendation from Ambassador Leonard Unger at Vientiane in which he quotes Secretary Rusk, Secretary MacNamara, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Felt, Admiral Sharp and Admiral Bringle.

Also attached is a list of participating Pilots-in-Command, First Officers, Air Freight Specialists, Air Freight Dispatchers, and Flight Mechanics.

Sincerely,

George A. Doole, Jr.

GAD:dm
Attachments

bcc: President

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
14-Aug-2009

AIR AMERICA, INC.

C O P Y

WFO - TPE (Via Pres - TPE)

24 June 1964

MGDR - NAS

WD-64-1686

Rescue Missions in Laos

Mr. Grundy forwarded to us copies of Ambassador Unger's letters to Mr. Stitt, dated June 9 and June 13. These documents have been given appropriate distribution at this end. We have been requested to obtain the names of the aircraft commanders participating on these two occasions. Could you please cable?

George A. Doole, Jr.

GAD:dm



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Vientiane, Laos,
June 13, 1964.

REC'D WAS JUN 23 1964

Dear Mr. Stitt:

I have received a telegram from the Secretary of State, a portion of which is directly intended, I am confident, for you and the personnel of Air America.

"Secretary MacNamara joins with me in extending the congratulations of all us here to those who have been involved in the air rescue operations. We are well aware of what you have accomplished.

signed Rusk"

Permit me to add again my own sincere thanks and admiration to you and all of the Air America personnel.

Sincerely,

Leonard Unger
Ambassador

4 - 6/23/64

Mr. Roy W. Stitt,
Station Manager,
Air America,
Vientiane.

mcdr ✓



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Vientiane, Laos.
June 9, 1964.

REC'D WAS JUN 23 1964

Dear Mr. Stitt:

I have been asked to send you the texts of messages from the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Felt, Admiral Sharp, and Rear Admiral Bringle on the successful efforts in which you and your company participated to rescue one of the U.S. Navy pilots recently shot down over Laos.

The message from the Chief of Naval Operations reads as follows:

"Your rescue of the downed pilot under very difficult circumstances from a hostile environment was a superb example of team work at its very best for which the Navy is most grateful. To all involved a 'hearty well done'".

Admiral Felt said:

"Please extend my grateful appreciation to all hands involved for their untiring and successful efforts in pick-up of the downed F-8 pilot. In Navy parlance, well done."

Admiral Sharp's message said:

"Please pass my deepest appreciation to those responsible for the successful rescue mission just completed."

Rear Admiral Bringle's message said:

"The complete and rapid response followed by untiring efforts of all concerned in the successful rescue under adverse conditions is deeply appreciated and a great assurance to all pilots."

I would like to express my own sentiments of profound thanks and congratulations to you and through you to all Air America personnel who participated in the rescue missions.

Sincerely,

Leonard Unger
Leonard Unger
Ambassador

Mr. Roy Stitt,
Air America,
Vientiane.

mcdr

4-6/1964

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
14-Aug-2009