



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

Office of Executive Director

October 20, 1965

mm

General Maxwell Taylor
Room 7428
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Taylor:

I thought you would be interested in receiving a copy of the October issue of our V.F.W. Magazine containing the article "Seeds of Peace for Vietnam." I also want to call to your attention the story on page 33 of the magazine regarding the Commander-in-Chief's Testimonial Dinner.

With warmest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Cooper T. Holt

COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp
Enclosure 1



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL

*Forward to
Mr. Holt
mm*

Take in trip to Chicago

August 24, 1965

General Maxwell Taylor
Room 7428
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Taylor:

First let me tell you how thrilled all of the national officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were when they learned that you had agreed to speak at the Homecoming-Testimonial for Mr. Andy Borg, the newly elected National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The dinner will be held in Superior, Wisconsin, Monday evening, September 13. There will be some 800 people in attendance. Among the 800 will be federal, state and local government officials, V.F.W. leaders from throughout the country, civic leaders from throughout Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, and, of course, rank and file V.F.W. members from the area. In case you are not familiar, Superior is a sister city of Duluth, Minnesota.

The dress will be a dark business suit. At this time I am enclosing two biographical sketches of Mr. Borg and I am also asking our Washington office to forward to you some of the actions taken at our National Convention which ended in Chicago last week. This will merely be background information and you can make whatever use of it you feel proper. I would suggest that your formal remarks be geared to 20-30 minutes. In my discussion with Mr. Holt, Director of the V.F.W. Washington office, he suggested that I send along a proposed travel schedule for you. In checking the Air Travel Guide, it appears that from the standpoint of saving time your best bet would be to leave Washington National Airport on American flight 773 (Electra) departing at 10:30 A.M. and arriving in Chicago at 11:45 A.M., then transferring to Eastern flight 232 departing at 12:50 P.M. and arriving in Minneapolis at 1:50 P.M., transferring at Minneapolis to North Central flight 675 departing Minneapolis 2:25 and arriving in Duluth at 3:15.

It was my thought that perhaps it would be advisable for me to have our public relations director, Mr. John L. Smith, meet you in Minneapolis and journey on to Duluth with you. He would be in a position to fill you in on all of the details of the program and would also be in attendance at the dinner. If you think this would



Gen. Maxwell Taylor - 2.

be advisable, please let me know.

In working out a return schedule, it appears the best bet would be for you to leave Duluth on North Central flight 574 departing at 7:50 A.M. and arriving in Chicago at 10 A.M., transferring to American Airlines flight 770 departing Chicago O'Hare at 10:30 A.M. and arriving at Washington National Airport at 1:30 P.M.

I have been informed by our Washington office that there is some chance that an Air Force plane will be going out from Washington and if this is the case, you might prefer this mode of transportation. I am asking Mr. Holt of our Washington office to keep your office posted on this matter.

Again let me tell you how happy all of us are that you will be with us on September 13. I look forward to meeting you personally. I am enclosing the agreed upon honorarium which you discussed with Mr. Holt.

Sincerely,


Julian Dickenson
Adjutant General

JD:m
Enclosure

**SEEDS OF PEACE
FOR VIETNAM**

(Continued from page 9)

ancestral homes in fear of the encroaching Viet Cong and already we have more than 400,000 Vietnamese in refugee camps. AID has been providing corrugated tin for roofing, lumber for siding, rigs for well drilling, and most important of all, regular rations of food. But these people cannot stay forever in camps and eventually—the sooner the better—they must have the opportunity to settle in villages again and go back to their homes.

The United States has provided almost 2½ billion dollars worth of economic assistance since 1954. To help the Vietnamese protect themselves in the war, we have provided—though the figures are classified—approximately the same in military assistance: trucks, machine guns, grenades, planes, ships.

While military assistance may save the country, economic assistance will rebuild it. In the past five years, for example, AID has helped to erect 4,682 new classrooms, drilled 1,900 fresh-water wells, constructed 12,000 village health clinics, and doubled the production of pigs. AID has given out eight million textbooks to Vietnamese school children and will distribute another seven million in the next two years. By providing the dollars needed to pay for imported machinery and giving technical assistance both on-the-job and through expanded vocational training schools, AID has inspired the establishment of 718 new manufacturing plants.

AID has distributed food and fertilizer, medicines and pesticides.

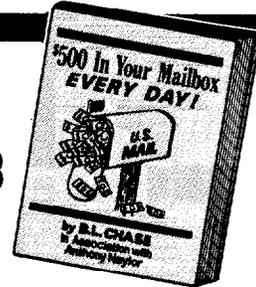
(Continued on next page)

• IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER to the V.F.W. when the sale of Buddy Poppies is restricted. Such a restriction in Miami Beach, Fla. prompted the National Council of Administration to change the 1967 convention to New Orleans. Losing the convention wasn't a laughing matter either to Miami Beach establishments such as the Fontainebleau Hotel which stood to turn a tidy profit from it. But those on both sides of the controversy couldn't help smiling at the way the *Miami News* wrapped the situation up: "In Flanders Field the poppies blow, But not in front of the Fontainebleau."

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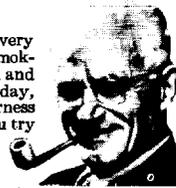
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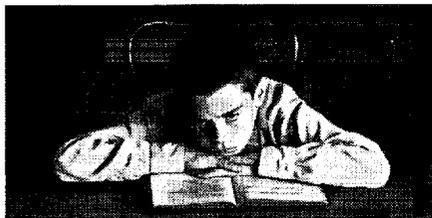
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The program has been responsible for the vaccination of more than seven million people against cholera and had, until the Viet Cong began to take over the territory, practically eliminated the scourge of malaria from the land.

The United States is not alone. There are now more than 30 countries actively participating in the struggle for freedom in Vietnam. They are helping us at all levels—to destroy the Viet Cong and to drive the enemy from the field, to block the infiltration of men and arms from the north, and to strengthen the government.

Among the other countries that are helping us in the struggle, the Republic of China on Taiwan has sent agronomists to give technical assistance, agricultural experts who themselves were trained by U.S. foreign assistance personnel.

Now in the city of Bien Hoa, only about 20 miles northeast of Saigon, a large friendly man from Whitman, Mass., is demonstrating that foreign aid can build on its own success. Bien Hoa is not a peaceful place in spite of the agricultural experimental station there, for it was the large airfield at Bien Hoa that the Viet Cong smashed with mortar fire last November.

Ralph Boynton, 56, knows that his is a dangerous job, but he has not flinched. He is helping four Chinese from Taiwan show the Vietnamese how to improve seed, properly use fertilizer and irrigate.

Some of our people are barely out of college, like Theodore Mc-Roberts Smith, 24 years old. He volunteered his summer without pay to spend it in the provinces of Vietnam, helping to bring the people better medicines, better water, better schools, a better life.

One night, just as he was going to bed, the Viet Cong exploded a bomb and the wall of the house he was living in fell to the ground. Smith was bruised and cut. As a friend said later: "He looked like a man who had just crawled through a briar patch." He had to be flown out for hospital treatment, but he didn't quit. He went back to continue his volunteer work with the people.

Smith's perseverance is typical of the Americans in Vietnam. I am proud to have been associated with them during my stay there as Ambassador, and I know that with such qualities they will carry the day.

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