

CARTON 1:8

PERSONAL

CORRESPONDENCE, VIET NAM

1967

ALLEN, PAMELA

2017/193  
c



Oct. 9, 1967

Dearest Love,

I thought that I might get to say more if I tried typing my letter to you. I have notified the director that I am resigning from my job at Edwin Gould. Tomorrow I will hand in my official resignation stating that I will leave on Nov. 10th. I feel very good that I have made the decision to leave, rather relieved as a matter of fact. My resignation made quite a stir at work because we had to announce it in order to have someone elected to fill my place on the Personnell Practices Comm. So it was announce via a memo to the entire staff. That's the most flamboyant resignation they've had. Many have asked me why I'm leaving...they assume I'm pregnant. But they are sort of envious when I say that I want to go on a tour with you around the U.S.

Speaking of a tour, I have written to Carleton to see if they are interested in having you speak. I would like to see the Guardian publicized in the Midwest but with some of the other people on the trip being from that area I wonder if that would be too many speakers trying for the same area. I think we should try something for Buffalo, N.Y., Rochester and any other places in N.Y. we can arrange. I would also assume that the black colleges in the South should be approached as well as Chapel Hill. I wish that we had communicated more on tentative ideas so that I could write introductory letters to see if there is interest. Of course you're going to have to clear a tour with the N.G. Jane responds positively to my suggestions but I don't know what the group would think. I have tentavily arranged for you to speak at Solebury School on Oct. 29th. I couldn't decide whether I should go ahead with these things or wait for you to get back. I hope that the 29th won't prove to be too bothersome but it seemed crazy to miss an opportunity and that seemed like a good date since my parents would be wanting to see you anyway. I am also going to write Father Washington to see if something could be set up in

Philadelphia, possibly at his church. I'm reluctant to do too much without you however as I don't know exactley where and what you'll want to do. I will suggest the 1st weekend in Nov. to Fr. W. so let me know right away if either the 29th or that weekend is not good.

I'm starting to sound like an organizer aren't I? My love I am missing you and am looking so forward to your return. I hope that you will find that I have grown as I feel that I have matured during this separation. And you also must be different. I love you my darling,

Peace, Pam



2) Did you get to see any of the American prisoners in N.Vietnam? Aunt Hazel's (&Uncle Ned) sister-in-law is somehow connected with a Lt. Commander who was shot down a number of years ago and may still be alive. Aunt H. and Uncle N. and this sister were at my parents this last weekend and when I told them where you were she asked me to send you his name. Basically they want to know if he is alive. So I don't know what you can do with it but just in case here it is: Lt. Com. Robert Doremus of Washington, Delaware and formerly of Mt. Claire, New Jersey.

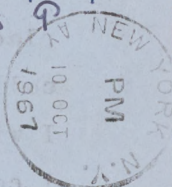
I had dinner with Elizabeth and John last week. They will be in Paris when you go through and will leave a letter for you at Am. Express.

FIRST FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Mr. Robert L. Allen  
c/o Wilfred Burckett  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia  
6 Avenue de France

P. Allen  
185 E 3rd St # 2G  
N.Y.C. 10009, USA



SECOND FOLD

3) John's address is "La Cimade", 80 rue de Paris, 91-Massy, Paris. If you let him know ahead of time he'll try to find accommodations for you. Love, don't dally in Paris. I am so very anxious to see you. I can't decide whether I should sign up to go to the Wash, march on the 21st cause I don't want to be down there if that's the day you're coming in. So once you have an idea let me know. But estimate conservative because the worst things are having to reorient myself to a new later arrival date. I have whethered the separation well but now I think in terms of the 27th since that way I can't be disappointed.  
*Jane says you must be here th 27th.*



October 12, 1967

Dearest,

I am feeling really low tonight - for the first time since you left. The news that you were going to Hanoi and would be gone 5 weeks hit me like a physical blow...but Tanis was there saying "I'll come to N.Y.C. earlier than I planned so I can stay with you" and Staughton and Alice were generously sharing their feelings with me. But tonight I feel alone. And I think that the key difference is that noone knows that I feel alone. I give the impression of being so fuckin independent and self-sufficient that nobody thinks that I might need them. It's funny but it has only been my family and some of the girls at work who have made any attempt to help me out. The people that I feel estranged from, they can still care about me as a person. But they don't understand me. And we have no close radical friends - that's become all the clearer to me. In six weeks noone at the Guardian has invited me to be with them -though Irving and Jody suggested maybe we should get together. I feel very alone. And yet I know it doesn't have to be this way. It was different in Chicago.

I know that tonight the tension that has been building up since you went into Hanoi has finally broken. Tonight I have finally cried.

I hate this city tonight. People live such segmented lives. There is no community, so little full sharing. It is such an inhuman place.

October 14th

I suppose it's just as well I didn't finish this letter since it would have depressed you. Last evening I went by the N.G. office to see if they had heard anything from you. I met Jack and another guy whose name I can't remember (he's the new copy editor) outside and they invited me to have a beer with them. This is only the second time I've seen Jack since you left. He has always left the office by the time I get there. So I chatted with him about our idea of doing a tour. I was surprised that noone had mentioned it to him. He was extremely enthusiastic and said he would send a memo around to everybody suggesting a 2 month tour.

In speaking with Jack I became aware of the tensions at the N.G. Jack certainly doesn't think well of a lot of people there. I had come to my own conclusion that Jane is unimaginative but Jack's almost nasty about it. And of course there's little good feeling between Jack and Bill. Jack says he misses you. I gather he considers you an ally. It's sad that a radical paper has to be so involved with personalities but I guess that's human nature. However it did make me decide that I wouldn't want to work there. One of us needs to keep our perspective. Jack asked

NO ENCLOSURES PERMITTED  
DO NOT EXCEED VOLUME OF ENVELOPE TO BE USED  
MOISTEN FLAP WELL AND APPLY PRESSURE TO SEAL



me about your future school plans but I told him that he'd have to ask you. He's all for you quitting school.

I am doing all right now so don't worry about me. Thursday I hit my low so I can just move up now. But I still feel alienated and a little bitter. I am looking forward to your return.

I'm having dinner tonight with your Mom and Rebecca. They're both in the school grind now and your mother feels swamped.

I have a movie for you to see when you get back -

SECOND FOLD



P. Allen  
185 E. 3rd St #26  
N.Y.C. 10009, U.S.A. 1967  
NEW YORK, NY  
OCT 14  
10:00 PM

Mr. Robert L. Allen  
90 American Express  
11 Rue Scribe  
Paris 9  
France

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

"The Battle of Algiers". It's about the beginning of the Algerian Revolution. It is very well done and very thought provoking.

I love you my darling. I so look forward to being with you again. Let me know when your coming home so that I can meet you,

Love,

*Pam*

P.S. John's address (in case you didn't get my letter in Cambodia)

"La Cimade", 80 rue de Paris, 91-Massy, Paris.



Hanoi, Oct. 7, 1967

Dearest Pam,

Burchett arrived here last night and brought two letters from you. I didn't get them until this morning (when I ran into Burchett at the hotel bomb shelter during an alert) because we were visiting Nam Ha province and Nam Dinh all day yesterday. From your letters I can only conclude that I am really the luckiest man in the world. It really amazes me that I have such a wonderful and loving wife when I look around and see so many other marriages that have failed. This must be a miracle.

The visit to Nam Ha was very interesting but a little tense at points. For the first time we heard U.S. planes flying right overhead. When we were moving around the province once a plane approached and we had to scramble out of the jeeps and into roadside shelters. But if the plane had been after us we wouldn't have had a chance because we didn't hear it until it was almost on top of us. For the Vietnamese this is a constant nightmare, and it shows, especially in the eyes of those who have been caught in bombing raids and who become visibly nervous even when the planes are far away.

But despite individual fears we have seen all sorts of concrete evidence that the nation as a whole is dug in for a long war. Before I left the States I was pulling for the Vietnamese but afraid they might be defeated. Actually being here has altered my outlook and I find it hard to see how the U.S. can win, even if it wipes out Hanoi and Haiphong. Production and supplies are dispersed but well organized and morale is high. Communication lines are con-



- 2 -

stantly being bombed but they are quickly repaired, and there are usually alternative routes as we discovered ourselves.

As others have reported, the U.S. is systematically bombing civilian targets and in a most unbelievably inhuman and cruel way. For the first time I have understood what the word "diabolical" means. The U.S. is carrying out a calculating and sophisticated policy of terroristic bombing of the civilian population and civilian buildings. It is so horrible that probably few decent Americans would believe it unless they saw it for themselves.

The Vietnamese are careful to make a distinction between decent Americans and the criminal U.S. government, but after seeing the destruction here I'm beginning to wonder if it is still possible to speak of "decent" Americans. A society which can create such terrible weapons and find plenty of men to fill its armed forces and employ these weapons can't have very ~~xx~~ many decent people in it.

Jack is right that I offered to pay back the \$1,500 -- when I talked to Jane from Bratislava after being roused out of the bed in the middle of the night and I was afraid I might not be able to make the trip. I think we should discuss the matter, although I'm still inclined to repay the money since I don't like being indebted. I also agree with you that if I make a speaking tour then that money should be used to repay the debt.

I'm feeling rather ambivalent about a tour at this point because I expect I'll be pretty drained when I return, and I imagine the NG will want me to say something at the dinner. <sup>he</sup> (by the way tell Jane that Burchett said ~~his~~ <sup>he</sup> has made a film for the dinner and I'm to pick it up when I pass through Paris)



3/3/3/3/3/3

On the other hand a tour would be good because I'm not ready to settle down to office work right away. I suppose Jane can go ahead and make tentative plans but if possible nothing should be finalized until I get back. As to how long it should be, I leave that up to you and Jane.

I'm glad that your family has stood by you. I wasn't sure what their reaction might be, and I'm curious as to what they will say when I return. I knew my mother ~~have~~ would take this in her usual solid and strong manner. I didn't know Lee would be coming back but it sounds as though his visit was good for you. Give my love to all of them.

I like your idea about "our love for us". I love you but I seldom feel/ feel very lovable myself except when I'm with you. And then I sort of love us. It's really crazy.

I'll write again when something new develops. Take care of yourself my love.

Bob



AIR MAIL

AVION

AIR MAIL

AVION

AVION

AIR MAIL

Mrs. Pamela Allen  
185 East Third Street  
New York, N.Y. 10009

U.S.A.

PAR AVION  
VIA AIR MAIL

AVION

AIR MAIL

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PAPIERS G.L. PARIS



Vivian Rogers collects stamps. She just fell  
in love with the N.L.F. ones. Is it possible for  
you to buy her back a few?  
Dearest,

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

I received the package from Paris  
today. What great stuff - especially those  
stamps. I took the stamps plus the  
post cards over to the N.G. office. They  
went wild. Is there any way of  
getting a supply of that stuff to sell?  
We could sell that stuff if we could  
get a supply (thousands).

We got a letter from Damaris from  
Saigon. It was interesting to compare the  
stamps. The Liberation Front's are much more  
creative. I opened D's letter even though it  
was addressed to you. I hope you don't mind  
I was depressed and knew it would make me  
feel closer to you. I was depressed because I  
assumed the letter was from you when I pulled  
it out of the P.O. box. D said to share the letter  
with your mom so I will. It was a description  
of Saigon - very interesting. I feel a little guilty  
having opened the letter because I do feel your  
relationship with her should be special. By the way  
you two were in Cambodia about the same time.

My love I have decided to quit the job  
for good. I'll hand in my resignation Monday  
and leave Nov. 3rd. I have decided that if you  
want to pay the N.G. back the \$1500 that's your  
problem to work out. We'll both be a lot happier  
if I'm not "sacrificing myself" in that job.  
I've also decided that I'm not going to continue  
to earn most of the money. You always said  
I could quit and get another job - but I still  
had to earn the same. I figure that's not valid  
anymore. I'll bring in half the \$ but no more  
shitty jobs just for food.

I had a long talk with Bill Price today.  
He gave me a lot of stuff to read on women.  
He cracked that you might be mad at him for  
feeding me all this. So I put him straight  
as to where we're at and how we'd already



of anything as a financial report just was given. So I reiterated to Bill the need to send somebody on the road, i.e. Bob Allen to spread the word of the Guardian. Then I got thinking of Merrill and whether he'll give some \$ so I decided to drop him a note this evening telling him of your further travels and suggesting we see him when you get back. I hope that's O.K. — P.S. I can't find his address. I'll ask your mom.

I love you Pam

SECOND FOLD



P. Allen  
185 E. 3rd St #2G-  
N.Y.C. 10009 USA

Mr. Robert Allen  
40 Wilfred G. Burchett  
6 Ave de France  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION



FIRST FOLD

discussed <sup>on the women question.</sup> this, and that you wanted me to go ahead. So then we talked about my reasons for quitting my job. (I wasn't growing + you were.) He later mentioned Jean Norrington has quit. So I suggested that I would be needing a job. Bill wondered if anyone would question nepotism. I dropped that with my not having a job you might need more pay but if they hired me they could get 2 for the price of one. But it seems nobody is going to get much



Hanoi, October 5, 1967

Dear Pam,

I know this must be a very lonely and difficult time for you.

Try not to worry too much. We are being well cared for.

I don't quite know how to describe this trip up til now. On the surface Hanoi is very peaceful, but there are several air raid alerts everyday and shelters all over. Occasionally we can hear bombing in and around Hanoi. We have visited sites in the city and nearby which have been bombed. The morale of the people seems to be high, as Burchett has contended. There are plans for us to see more of the countryside at some point.

We are kept busy every day with meetings, discussions and trips which require a lot of concentration. In a way this experience is very tiring, but I wouldn't want to miss it. I must stop now to work on my notes and articles for the Guardian.

I love you. Say hello to all.

Bob



Sept 29, 1967

Love,

We leave for Hanoi today. There is a good chance that when we return to Phnom Penh I will spend a few extra days here doing some additional investigating. This means I probably won't get back to Paris until Oct 20 and will return to the States on Oct 21 or 22. Please advise Jane. Sorry this trip is taking so long, but please remember how much I love you. Write me at Burchett's.

Love, Bob



Phnom Penh, Sept. 27, 1967

Dearest love;

Arrived in Phnom Penh after a 17-hour flight (on a big jet, too!) which made stops at Athens, Cairo and Karachi. P.P. is actually a very beautiful French colonial city. Norm and I went for a long walk around it yesterday after arriving. The only problem is that it's very hot and muggy. The people here, like the Vietnamese, are generally very attractive.

We met here the other five people who are going to Hanoi for the first time since Bratislava. They stayed in Prague instead of going on to Paris or London, and apparently had a terrible time embroiled in red tape. They got to see little of Prague in more than a week and spent most of ~~their~~ their time running to bureaucrats' offices. Consequently, tensions in the group were (and maybe still are) very high. The two girls with the group seemed particularly upset and felt that Tom was making decisions without consulting them. Norm and I came into ~~this~~ this situation cold, ~~and~~ but Norm reacted immediately and consequently he and the two girls decided to say to hell with meeting the DRV Ambassador this afternoon and instead they are taking off to visit the ruins of Angkor Wat about 200 miles north of here. (They may still change their minds but there seems to be a strong psychological need for some people to revolt against Tom at this point.) Tom regards this kind of behavior as irresponsible and insensitive to the Vietnamese, the same way in which he viewed the American delegation's drinking, dancing and general clowning at the Bratislava conference. I think Tom has a valid point but on the other hand he should be experienced enough to know that Americans will be Americans (perhaps unfortunately) no matter where they are nor how serious the situation.

Tell Jane that I saw Burchett briefly last night and will have a longer meeting with him tomorrow. He seems to be a very nice guy and has a lovely family. They live, rather surprisingly for me, in a large comfortable villa on the edge of the city.

We are scheduled to fly to Hanoi on Sept. 29 and remain in North Vietnam about two weeks. But whether and when the ICC plane flies is always a big question mark because it depends on the bombing. The ICC plane also has to get all kinds of clearances from everybody and his brother, including the Cambodians, the Laotian Royalists, the government of Laos, the Pathet Lao, Saigon, North Vietnam and, of course, the Americans. The whole thing is unbelievably complex.

Hope the schools have re-opened in New York by now. Regards to my family and yours. If you want to write me in the next two weeks send the letter to Burchett.

Love,

Bob

Tell Jane that I don't have  
any stories planned for awhile.



Cairo Sept. 25

Love,

Passing through  
here on way to  
Phnom Penh. also  
stopped at Athens +  
will have brief stop  
in Karachi. Will  
drop you a note from  
Cambodia. Love to all

Bob

ادفو : حوش معبد حورس

EDFU: Forecourt in Horus Temple

EDFOU: Cour du temple de Horus

EDFU: Vorhof des Horustempels

Air Mail

GENERAL REGISTRATION FOR NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, DISTRIBUTION AND MAILING - CANADIAN AIR MAIL

Pamela Allen

185 East 3rd St.

New York, N.Y.

U.S.A.

Avion







Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>

Dearest Robert,

I received your 3<sup>rd</sup> letter today. You sounded much happier. I was relieved to hear you got your validation. It simplifies things. I stopped by the WG office and had a nice chat with Jare. We were talking about the possibility of your making a tour. She was thinking in terms of a week with a talk each night in different large cities but I suggested a longer tour incorporating both speaking with reporting. My own ideas are running around the idea of an original one month tour - say in the midwest then south or west. Then perhaps we should come back and reevaluate where we're at. One reason for the idea of an original month was my thought that perhaps I shouldn't quit my job right away and I could take a leave of absence for a month. The reason I question the advisability of quitting is only that Jack told me you plan to pay the WG the \$1500 back. Even if we pay the \$1500 from your speeches we may need for me to work a couple of months. That's why I thought of a month on the road November and then a while to think and decide what we want to do then.

My love, your letters are wonderful to get. I must tell you that I don't cry because I'm lonely but every now and then I feel all weepy when I think of how we love each other and I get so overwhelmed with thinking of our love that the tears trickle down my cheeks. And I feel happy! I guess I'm sort of crazy but we do have something so very special and I just overflow when I think of us and our love.

Darling take care of yourself.

I am well. Lee is with me until Wed. Tania comes tomorrow until Oct 1st. Granddaddy is coming to Solbury the 6<sup>th</sup> so I'll spend that weekend at my folks.





JOHN F. KENNEDY



P. Allen

185 E 3rd St #2G

N.Y.C. 10009, USA

Mr. Robert L. Allen  
c/o Wilfred Burchett  
6 Avenue de France  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION



SECOND FOLD

FIRST FOLD

Take care dearest love. I love you.  
My thoughts are with you.  
Be careful and enjoy your trip.  
Love, Pam



Sept. 24th

My Darling,

I thought I'd better try these air letters since it will save time not to have to run to the Post Office each time I write. The man at the P.O. said you could send these anywhere in the world - except Brooklyn! He also said you were a lucky man (cause I was writing to you + we were married + all. P.O. men are some of the most flattering characters!)

I talked with Pat Poole. She's still looking for people to buy shares. I told her 'no' for the time being. I'm having dinner with her tomorrow evening.

Tanis is coming to N.Y.C. on Monday. She's leaving for Europe on Oct. 1st. I don't know her itinerary but check Am. Express when you get back to Paris and you might learn her a note saying how long you'll be in Paris and where you'll be. You probably won't be in Paris at the same time but it doesn't hurt to try.

I'm getting pretty bugged by John + Elizabeth's tickets. I have to make another trip to Air France tomorrow regarding E's extra money + tickets to N.Y.C. They will leave for Paris at 8PM on Oct. 7th, arriving about 8AM Paris time - so I think 10AM. Flight # 020.

The way I calculate things I won't be seeing you before Oct. 14th or 15th at the earliest. I'm planning to meet you at the airport so be sure to let me know when you're coming - what flight and time. I'll take the day off if it's during the day. Lee must be in Washington (State) on the 15th so I doubt if you'll get to see him.

Lee and Tanis will both be with me next week so I'll keep busy. We're planning to have dinner with your Mom and R. on Tuesday. Your Mom starts school <sup>on</sup> Wed.

I discovered that I was elected to the Nominating Committee at work. That's not a very significant comm. except that I noticed that the other 3 workers (all MSW's) are the most respected in the agency. As I was not elected as a Case Aide but as a worker, I am aware that this is a sign of how much respect people do have for me.

Do not doubt that I love you and look forward to your return. I think back on our week in Vermont with fond memories. I'm so glad that we had that week. And I'm glad you like me cause I do like you.

I love you so very much. - Pam



P.S.

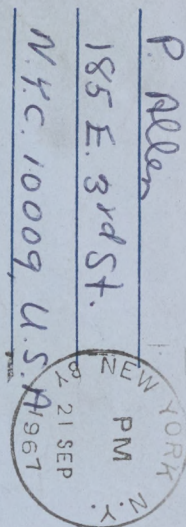
I get most sentimental and weepy feeling when I think about how you must be missing me too. It's so good to feel so sure of our love and affection for one another.

I'll write next to Cambodia c/o the Burchetts  
6 Ave. de France, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Jane sent them a telegram about when you'd be coming.

FIRST FOLD

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

Mr. Robert L. Allen  
c/o American Express  
11 Rue Scribe  
Paris 9  
France



SECOND FOLD

I would be so happy to get a letter from you. Even a post card would be fun.

I read your article on the Corp. in the Guardian - it's on the front page.



Sunday 9-24

My love,

I received two letters from you today. (I was in Solebury for the weekend.) It meant so much to hear from you - 20 days after we parted. The phone call was disturbing in many ways. You seemed so close and yet so far away. And I would read your notes to the Guardian. But I so wanted something just for me.

Please Bob don't feel guilty. I am not hurt, at least not tonight as I first read your letters. As you said, you probably would have sooner or later. And at least my darling we need no longer play that threatening game.

I know that you love me and I so love you. Nothing you did could really change that love. I am so glad we had the week in Vermont. I did not doubt - ever - our love but that week was so precious (with all the squabbles too!) that I feel I can almost touch our love, and feel it as something that is with me even when we are apart. What I think I am trying to say Roberto is that it is ~~not~~ my love for you or your love for me but our love for us which now fills me.

I have been fortunate to have my family close by - especially Lee. And it has helped a great deal to be with your Mom. We talk about you a great deal - what you were like as a little boy. She doesn't ask what you're like now. And Tania has been great. She's coming to N.Y.C. a couple days early to be with me. She leaves for Europe Oct. 1st.



P. Allen  
185 E. 3rd St.  
N.Y. 10009 USA



Mr. Robert L. Allen  
c/o Wilfred Burchett  
6 Avenue de France  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia

AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

SECOND FOLD

Seeing Staughton and Alice Lynel further reinforced my courage to face this separation bravely.

I have had ~~my~~ many people I love give me strength to utilize this time apart to grow ever closer to you.

I have been very lucky.

I love you,  
Pam

FIRST FOLD

Alan McFarlane  
No 3 Place Bellevue  
Apt 804  
City of Laval  
P. Quebec, Canada  
681-8486  
Prison de Montreal  
800 Gouin Blvd West  
Montreal, P.Q.

Raissa  
115 Hickson Ave.  
St. Lambert  
P.Q. Canada  
672-4920



Letter #3

paris, sept. 22, 1967

My dearest love,

I got your letter today and it did my poor heart a tremendous lot of good. Your letters always seem to have a warmth and degree of feeling which I can never seem to get into my letters to you.

Your plan sounds interesting. These few weeks out of the office have made me realize again how bored I am with office work. I think I would like to make a tour for the N.G., speaking, raising money, sending back articles and making new contacts. It would be great if we could do it together. New York is beginning to be a drag anyhow.

I got my passport validated today. Tell Jane I don't know how she did it but thanks a hell of a lot. The emabssy man here said it was the fastest validation authorization he had ever seen come through and expressed open amazement that it happened. Tell your parents about

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ this so that they will know the whole thing is legal.

I saw a doctor last nite and discovered that I don't have dysentery afterall, only a stomach inflammation, and he gave me some medicine for that.

Today I bought some outdoor clothing because I hope to get into the countryside of North Vietnam where some of the more recent bombings have taken place. I bought a nifty waterproof jacket, some blue ~~jeans~~ jeans and a pair of lined hiking boots. The whole lot cost about \$40, but the Guardian has to be prepared to equip its war correspondents properly. I bought tons of film but still haven't been able to lay hands on a portable tape recorder. May have to rent one tomorrow.

I'm leaving some of my clothes and stuff with Colette Viale Thach, 69 rue Galande (tel: 633 54 80), until I get back. She is one of our contact people here.

You'll be interested to know that Norm Fruchter is going on this trip. He and I will be flying from Paris together on Monday. The other five are leaving from Prague tomorrow.

It's really weird how every day I think about how much I love you and how glad I am that I married you. I look at the young couples walking arm in arm here and I don't feel any jealousy because I know we have something better. When I think of you I seldom think in terms of specific incidents but I think of you in general terms and it gives me a very warm feeling. I look forward to hearing from you again when I get to Cambodia.

P.S. Love to Mom + Rebecca

Love, Bob





EMBASSY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In reply refer to:  
PPT - RWK/ml

Paris, France

September 22, 1967

Mr. Robert Lee Allen, Jr.  
Hôtel California  
32 rue des Ecoles  
Paris, 5e

Dear Mr. Allen:

I refer to the validation of your passport for travel to the Communist-controlled portions of Vietnam.

The Department of State has requested the Embassy to communicate to you the following information:

"In connection with your contemplated travel to the Communist-controlled portions of Vietnam, the Department must warn you that the United States Government has no diplomatic or consular relations with the Communist regime in North Vietnam, that you will be traveling at your own risk and that you cannot be accorded the normal service and protection of United States diplomatic and consular representatives.

"Further, the Foreign Assets Control Regulations administered by the Treasury Department prohibit all unlicensed transactions by Americans with the Communist-controlled portions of Vietnam or nationals thereof including payments for travel expenses, for accommodations, or for services. They also prohibit Americans from making unlicensed purchases in the Communist-controlled portions of Vietnam of any goods whether for consumption, exportation or importation into the United States. Application forms for the necessary license and any additional information you may require should be obtained from the Foreign Assets Control, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., 20220, or the Foreign Assets Control Division, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York, 10045."

If I can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard W. Kautsky*

Richard W. Kautsky  
American Consul



Paris, Sept. 20, 1967

My Dearest Love,

I feel a lot better today. I picked up my visas and bought a roun-trip ticket to Phnom Penh. I expect to return to Paris around Oct. 15-16 and I have made tentative flight arrangements to return to the States on Oct. 18. You might advise Jane of this. Also tell her I'm going to try and ~~get~~ make color photos (as well as black and white) while in North Vietnam, and also obtain some taped interviews. I received her telegram about validation today.

No promises on this

I have pretty much recovered from the bad cold, and I think I'm beginning to get over the dysentery. But strangely enough, in the past few days I've had several of the old migraine headaches. Perhaps it's divine punishment

I ran into Carol Brightman today. She was at the conference but I ~~xxxx~~ hadn't seen her since it ended. We had a long talk about the American left, and plan to have dinner together this evening.

Saw a new film a few days ago by Claude Lelouch, the guy who made "A man and a woman." It appears to be excellent altho I couldn't understand the subtle points since it was in French.

I apologize for the rather weird letter yesterday. I was in one of those strange moods that I often get into. You know the sort of thing I mean. I felt that I had to sit down and write a kind of soul-searching letter, but I think the effort came off rather poorly. I really am no good at writing letters, except for very formal ones which I handle like an ace.

I've been looking around for a gift for you. (I sent an important package in the mails but it may be stopped by customs) I spent the morning looking in store windows. There's lots of nice stuff here and I can't make up my mind. I also want to make sure it's authentic French. Since I will have a few days in Cambodia I thought I might also try to find something there.

I just had dinner with Carol. We had a long conversation about North Vietnam and what I could expect to find there. The idea of this trip is beginning to excite me. Carol will probably return to the States this weekend. You should talk to her when she gets back.

Do me a favor and send me Alan Mc Farlane's address and phone number, also his sister's. Better send it to me in Cambodia.

I'lll write again soon.

Mush, much love,

Bob



Paris, Sept. 19, 1967  
Two days after your birthday

For the first time since the trip began I'm beginning to feel lonely. All the other Americans in the group which came to Paris have left now, for London or the States. Four of us roomed together here in this hotel californi~~ia~~, on~~e~~ the Left Bank, or the Latin Quarter, or the student area; whatever they call it, only a few blocks from the Sorbonne and Notre Dame. There were 41 Americans in Bratislava. While I was with them everything was business, or at least there was plenty of distracting noise; the kind generated by people pursuing fun in a desperate manner.

But as they have drifted away my thoughts have turned more to you. I didn't miss you at first. I was all caught up in the conference and the articles I was to write~~X~~, and then the last minute chaotic scramble to make arrangements to go to Vietnam. What I feel now could hardly be ~~described~~ described as "missing you." There are so few of us happily married men that I think we should get some kind of special mention, perhaps in the New York Times.

The weather has been terrible, overcast and cold and raining most of the time. It's raining now. But there were one or two sunny days in Paris and it was good to move about. Paris is a beautiful city, as they say, and I admit that I like it better than before.

The conference was good. I learned a lot. A number of the American crew complained of a lack of "frankness" on the part of the Vietnamese. What the hell! They're at war with us. Are they supposed to divulge every secret and feeling to a bunch of Americans, all of whom are probably direct or indirect agents? (And I include myself in this.) They are wonderful people, very warm, and open and friendly -- after you get beyond the politeness stage. Their women are charming and attractive. One -- Vu Thi Hao, whom I mentioned in my story -- seemed to like me. We talked together a bit and she asked if I was married. I said yes. Somehow it strikes me as a bit dishonorable for me to approach a Vietnamese girl. Or is this only a pretense?

Here in Paris I went beyond the bounds, as I have so often threatened to do. I don't quite know what to say about it. My heart tells me to say it only strengthened my love for you, and reconfirmed that no one can in any way even come near you. For me it was little more than a physical thing, and I suppose I would have done it sooner or later. I must have a lot of "nerve" to tell you this in a letter. The mass media-oriented part of me screams that I should be pleading with you not to leave me. Maybe I should. Perhaps I have misjudged where we stand.

But I~~X~~ know that you're aware that you're all that I have, and more importantly all that I want. You already know how much I love you and how much you mean to me. But my heart still is not satisfied. Maybe I'm just afraid to try and write a real love letter. I can't. I'll always be a cold fish except when I'm with you.

I know this thing will hurt you, but I'm not quite sure how or what I can do about it. You're right -- in many ways I don't know you. You know me much better. Can you understand how it is that right now when I think of begging your forgiveness



2/2/22/2

I sort of choke? It's not honest and I know that this isn't what hurts you. All of this only makes me painfully aware of how insensitive I can be. I only hope this whole letter wasn't a mistake. Let's drop this subject for now.

I was troubled by the phone call today. Something is wrong. I hope you will tell me what it is in the letter you are writing now.

If anyone asks why I went to Vietnam tell them that I'm doing alternative service. What was your parents' reaction to the news of the trip? I only hope it doesn't get them into any hot water. They've been through a lot with us, and I suppose they realize by now that we have our own peculiar gods which we must follow.

I can't imagine how my parents ~~reacted~~ reacted. I don't feel that I have parents anymore, only a dying father in Atlanta and a mother in New York. They had a destiny which they are living out and I suppose it couldn't have been otherwise.

I know this letter is disjointed but to organize it would have meant writing a cold and straightforawrd article.

This is the day I would have flown home. I ~~cancelled~~ cancelled my KLM reservation and confirmed an Air France reservation on a flight to Cambodia on Monday. I was looking for almost any excuse to come home.

I'm not certain what this Vietnam trip will mean. The people on the staff seem to believe that it will mean great things for the paper and I suppose they are thinking of shipping me off on a speaking tour. But personally I can't pin it down. It's not like going to Cuba. I know exactly why I wanted to attend the Bratislava conference. Very simply, to meet in person the people whose struggle has changed my life. But why go to Hanoi? I want to go to Hanoi, but why? I'm not bearing a cross (like Malcolm Boyd, who was at the conference. We had several good talks and he sends his love to you.) There is little that I can do for the Vietnamese. I can photograph and write articles, and see the destruction. Maybe that's it. I want to hear what bombs sound like as they fall, and see what they can do to human bodies. I want to see the real face of Death. I want to see Death so I can decide whether there is anything worth killing for -- motto kill as an act of passion, but to kill in a calculating way.

But this is much too abstract and doesn't say what I mean. I'm getting tired and my mind can't focus. It's almost 11 p.m. so I think I will get in bed and read a book. Write to me in Cambodia after you receive this letter.

Please remember how much I love you. Please remember that you are my life, even though I have betrayed you.

Bob

This letter is bullshit. Please, Pam, I love you.



The N.G. got the glossy print today.

My dearest,

Sept 19th

You sounded pretty miserable on the phone this morning. I do wish I could be there with you. Everyone at the N.G. office says they hope you'll be feeling better. Jane sent telegrams to everybody and their brothers. She'll pursue the State Department guy again tomorrow about getting the validation either to Paris or Cambodia. In regard to your passport - Staughton Lynd said you could probably get it back if you don't get it validated + it is taken away. It seems Herbert Aptheker got his back because he was a journalist. Also S. Lynd said that it is not illegal to go to N. Vietnam. It's only against the law if you leave without a passport. Some court ruled on this last fall. Jane says be sure you'll be back for the annual dinner.

I've been doing a lot of thinking. For that reason our separation has been partly good. One idea: with the N.G. needing money you should probably go on a speaking tour. I would like to quit Edwin Gould and go along - but not as an appendage. I would like to begin organizing radical women on the question of women's rights. This has started in Chicago as a reaction to the bad treatment at WCP and in Chicago to the women's caucus. I got involved during my visit to Chicago - am excited about it. However if I do this the N.G. will need to pay you more than \$40 per wk. We will have a car. Lee is going off to Korea for at least a year on Oct. 15th. He's going as a medic. So we'll have the "bug" whatever that's worth. However if we need money I could work for Brosi's vocations for Social Change as an organizer. Knowing Brosi that won't be much money but if they are funded (a good chance) he says he'll hire me. At least maybe we could get gas money in turn for handing out propaganda etc. for him. (I would really like to go back to Vermont and forget the world but facing reality makes this seem to be the best plan.) What do you think? I bet you'll be tired.



2.

George was very impressed with the Prague Conf.  
It seems to have humbled him a little.

Do find out everything you can for me about the  
Women's movement in Vietnam. How did they get  
over a feeling of inferiority or don't they have that problem?  
How do they see themselves as radical women? Do  
they see value in organizing as women?

I love you deeply. I miss you but I'm  
also happy with myself. I'm reading Betty Friedan's  
The Feminine Mystique. I'm starting to feel like maybe  
I have a chance to be a person in my own right  
again. I feel very complete having both you and myself.

I spent a day with St. and Alice Lynd. We  
talked a great deal about what it means to be  
a woman and a person and a partner in a marriage.

I guess you pretty well have to fall to the  
bottom before you can ~~pretty~~ pick yourself up  
again. Robert - do you realize I never considered  
going to the Prague Conf. with you - to Europe yes  
to the Conf. No. God I was sick when I realized  
how little I saw myself as a part of the left.  
Everyone else assumed I wasn't going because of  
money. No my darling that will not happen again.  
I want always to be with you but now I  
know there is something worse than separation  
- my dying as an individual. Only with you  
have I been my true self these last 2 years.  
It's time my darling that I stop being frustrated  
and only partly fulfilling myself. Betty Friedan says  
she thinks women are just now growing up and that  
they are suffering all the pains of indecision and  
fear of freedom. That hits home with me. I certainly  
have little idea of where I'm going. But at least now  
I know where I'm at.  
Roberto - I feel very happy with what we have together  
and very hopeful of what we can be together if I can "grow up"  
as a person. I love you - Pam



Allen  
185 E 3rd St. #26  
N.Y. 10009  
U.S. A.



STRIKE BACK AT C  
G I V  
AMERICAN CANCER S



Mr. Robert Allen  
c/o American Express  
11 Rue Scribe  
Paris 9  
France

AIR MAIL





AIR MAIL



BRATISLAVA  
Dom rekreácie ROH

Sept 12

Air mail  
Luftpost



Happy birthday, Love.

I hope you are having a  
good visit with Tanis.

Photo on back is hotel  
where we are staying.

There is a strong chance  
of further travel but  
don't know for sure  
yet

Foto: V. Přibyl

Love, Bob

Mrs. Pamela Allen

% Tanis Walters

2232 N. Dayton St.

Chicago 14, ILL

USA

Bratislava 1967









Monday, 9-11

My Dearest,

I wonder how you are, God, but it's difficult to write to you. For the whole week I have been avoiding thinking about where you are. Now that I am writing to you I must face up to the fact that you are far away and that it will be at least another week before I see you. How much easier it has been to assume that you are at the paper working overtime. Ah, the defenses we use to cope!



I have<sup>2</sup> had very little  
time alone since you left and  
almost no leisure time. Since  
demands have been made on me  
I have not had the time to  
think about missing you. Thuy  
came about 1 AM Monday night  
She was with me until  
I left for Chicago. Thuy  
is a delightful person. I can  
see why she and your  
sister were friends. She maintains  
an Eastern flavor while being  
quite sophisticated. It is she  
who got your sister really  
thinking about Vietnam.

Thuy considers herself  
upper middle class but she and



3.

her family oppose the war.

By the way she had some interesting things to tell me about the status of women in Vietnam. They have never been of the low status of many women in Eastern countries. They are respected and if educated have equal opportunity. Many women run stores in the front part of their homes while the men go out to work.

I enjoyed Thuy's visit and it did help greatly in keeping me from being lonely. We saw your mother and R twice and went to see To Sit with Love one evening so I stayed ~~visit~~ busy.

It's good seeing Tamis



4.

again. We go to Minnesota tonight for 3 days. I am now looking forward to seeing Kris & Dick.

I'm finding it hard to continue writing. I don't want to think how much I love you. I start feeling very 'weepy' when I do. It's funny that although I have not allowed <sup>myself</sup> to think about you too much (It hurts too much cause I start to miss you terribly) you are in my conversation all the time. I just can't stop talking about you! - What you would say about something - How you reacted, what you would say if you knew the stupid thing I just did!

So you are with me,  
a part of my life ever



when not <sup>5</sup> physically with me.

I love you and  
look forward to having you  
back with me. You know I  
really like you and enjoy  
having you around. All my  
friends are stuck with having  
you here in spirit because  
I hold you near always  
- perhaps a little compulsively  
at the moment.

I do hope it's being a  
good trip. Try not to miss me  
too much and enjoy as much as  
possible your visit to Paris.

with love,

Pam



P. Allen  
185 E. 3rd St.  
N.Y.C. 10009, U.S.A.



Mr. Robert L. Allen

40 American Express

11 Rue Scribe

~~Métro~~

Paris, France

AIR MAIL



AIR MAIL



Dear Bob -

Looks like I'm going so well  
see you in N.Y. -

Have one thought for you in  
the future. "Nonchalant" affairs (as John  
calls 'em) are very good, given the  
right time, place + people, and the  
act itself in this one was very good -

It fulfilled a need both of us had.  
However there's more to it than literally  
the 10 or 15 minutes spent screwing -  
Sex should also be both fun +  
warm, + you seemed very uptight  
the rest of the time. Frankly, it kind  
of threw me a little. Perhaps



something I said or did produced  
the reaction, & if so ignore all this  
bullshit. If not however, then in  
the future you should try & loosen  
up or unbend a little. I think  
you'll enjoy the whole scene more.

Take care of yourself - don't  
stand under any falling bombs  
- Thanks -

Love,  
Lunch



Rm 20

BOB ALLEN



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