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1974 Correspondence U - V

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November 28, 1974

The Honorable
Leonard Unger
American Ambassador
Taipei, Taiwan

• Dear Len:

Thank you for your most thoughtful note of November 11. You're not very far away, but the letter just arrived today. By the time you get this we will have had a good visit at the Chiefs of Mission meeting. I'm looking forward to that immensely. I'm in the midst of the Kissinger visit as I write this and things are predictably hectic.

Thank you for your kind words and your thoughtfulness. Barbara and I are very happy here, very happy indeed.

Warm regards,

George Bush

GBush:hek

*7 Mrs Bush mailed in
states*

larger, much smaller



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Taipei, Taiwan

November 11, 1974

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Honorable George Bush
U. S. Liaison Office
Peking

Dear George:

As you can imagine, I think of you and your mission in Peking often and have been very remiss in waiting this long to pass along my greetings and my welcome to China. As time goes on and we have both been at our posts for a while, I am sure there will be matters we will want to discuss, by letter if by no other means. Meanwhile, fortunately there will be also a good opportunity to get together at the forthcoming Chiefs of Mission session in Honolulu and I hope that we will be able to find a little time there for that purpose.

In a couple of weeks, you'll be having a most interesting visitor. It would be nice to know what is anticipated will be taking place at that time and thereafter, but I know there is nothing to do but await developments.

All the best.

Yours,

Leonard Unger
Ambassador

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

December 20, 1974

The Honorable Leonard Unger
American Ambassador
American Embassy
Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Len:

Here is a scandal piece that floated in in my mail.
I thought you might be interested in the centerfold
where they talk about you. If these kinds of nuts
attack you, you can't be all bad.

I just can't tell you how much I enjoyed renewing
our friendship at the Chiefs of Mission Conference.
Let's stay in touch.

Warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

George Bush

Enclosure

December 3, 1974

Mr. Charles Untermeyer
c/o The Houston Chronicle
801 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Charles:

Barbara and I were thrilled to get your letter of November 16. I think you are making exactly the right move going with Jon Lindsay. I wish I knew him. I am pleased that he won that race, but I think it's essential now that he make an excellent job. With you there, he's in good shape as far as sound, seasoned advice goes. Please let me know from time to time how it goes. On this end things are fine. Bar flew back to the States with Secretary Kissinger for Christmas. My mother is coming out here to look after me. I'll miss the kids and Bar particularly, but I just didn't feel I should leave, having just arrived. Peking is a marvelous city. One of great contrasts and strange ways.

The Kissinger visit went well and I am very pleased that he came this soon after my arrival. All in all, I love this assignment. Some day I hope you'll be coming this way.

Thanks for that great newsy letter. It meant an awful lot to us.

Warm regards,

George Bush

I am of course excited over this opportunity, not only in helping Jon assume his very potent new responsibility but also in helping the local GOP acquire a new image of interest in and action for people -- our first real chance to show our stuff. As a step in this direction, I've made tentative outreach toward ~~black, Mexican-American and feminist leaders~~ to show we'll be interested in what they have to say. The president of the local Nat'l Organization for Women chapter was stunned and delighted I even called.

At the same time I believe this is exactly the entrypoint into politics I have been seeking. I am glad I didn't run for the state legislature this year, for I probably would have been defeated by the Democratic incumbent. But even if I had been elected, I doubt a freshman minority member of the lower house of the state legislature would have anywhere near the impact on government that I think I'll have starting Jan. 1 in Harris County. Jon is particularly interested in mass transit, flood control and land subsidence. I don't know what the "next step" for me will be because a lot depends on how successful I am in helping Jon. But I feel I'm at least in a better position to jump.

It was in a way sad to leave the CHRONICLE and journalism. I was in a spot where, sooner or later, I would have had offers to join larger papers elsewhere; I was already the Texas political "stringer" for the WASHINGTON POST. But in journalism, going up would also have meant going out -- out of this area. I am really committed to staying here because it is (as you especially know) an exciting place to live, an agreeable place to live (I like humidity) and a place where political opportunities do exist for young people, even young Republicans. We'll see.

I'm sorry I didn't have time to visit more with you at the state GOP convention in September; we both were rather busy. I doubt there'll be any official Harris County delegations to Peking in the near future, either. Incidentally, in a recent conversation your name was mentioned alongside Jon Lindsay's, and I mused: "Peking and the Harris County courthouse, two places no one would ever have guessed there'd be Republicans by 1975." All best wishes,

Charles

Charles/Chase Untermeyer

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

80 TEXAS AVENUE, HOUSTON TEXAS 77002

(713) 220-7171

Saturday, 16 November 1974

Dear George & Barbara:

Aside from just checking in with the Bushes (Far Eastern branch) and wishing I could tell you this ~~more~~ in person, I have some rather interesting personal-political news to relate.

As word may have reached you, there were two bright spots for the GOP in Texas and around the country 11 days ago. These were the election of Republicans as county judge in Harris and Dallas counties. Yup -- as incredible as it seems, a Republican defeated 16-year incumbent Bill Elliott here, chiefly a reaction to his long, unpopular tenure but also a result of steady, effective organizing by Nancy Palm and her minions.

The winner was a quiet, unassuming civil engineer named Jon Lindsay (that's how he spells his name) who only 2 years ~~ago~~ ago was Democratic candidate for the state legislature and lost by less than 200 votes. Nancy recruited him to run against Elliott, and he switched over to the GOP. He won a contested primary against the man who was GOP nominee for county judge in 1970. Jon had no money, and throughout the campaign the political writer of the HOUSTON CHRONICLE felt he had no chance, even after a grand jury issued a report critical of Elliott's actions in a mini-scandal. The county GOP finally gave him \$13,000 and he was able to get on the air with some spots. On Nov. 5th Lindsay won with 57% of the vote.

When it was clear Lindsay had won, my own political innards began sending a signal. I realized Lindsay had no staff, no government experience and few contacts among minorities, labor and the press. There was only one Republican I could think of who had those contacts: myself. So the next day I drove out to his home in far-off Spring, Texas, and asked if I could join his staff. I think Jon was surprised at the offer, but he quickly accepted. So as of now I am the sole aide to the County Judge-elect. I quit the Chronicle a week ago but am still operating out of my old desk because the Commissioners Court, in its considered wisdom, refused to give us any courthouse office space. (John Butler Jr. may give us something downtown til New Year's.)

OVER

December 27, 1974

Mr. Richard Valeriani
NBC News
4001 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20016

Dear Dick:

Great letter written on December 13 about Lynn Pascoe. I will see that it works its way into his file, but I'll see that it doesn't get put on top -- thus sparing him the likelihood of having to go through that drill again.

Lynn is a first-rate officer and I really do appreciate your taking the time to write about the job he did.

I want to take this opportunity to apologize to you for being so damned inhospitable. Barbara and I had wanted to get you and some of your colleagues over to our house for something relaxed and something fun, but unfortunately I spent all of my time looking serious in meetings. She was furious with me. Next time we'll do better by you.

Barbara is home in the States with the kids for Christmas, which is as it should be though this will be the first time in 30 years I have not been with her for Christmas. My mother is here, though, and that's just great. Peking is cold, but fortunately the wind hasn't been blowing much and it is clear. As a matter of fact, in a funny sort of way, Christmas means an awful lot more here.

Warm regards,

NBC NEWS

A DIVISION OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

4001 NEBRASKA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016, EMERSON 2-4000

December 13, 1974.

Ambassador George Bush
U. S. Liaison Office
Peking
People's Republic of China

Dear George:

You've probably discovered by now that letters you get from correspondents are either demanding or complaining. This one is somewhat different.

The intent is to commend the performance of Lynn Pascoe in his job of shepherding the Kissinger 14. But I don't want to commend too much, lest he get stuck with the job again.

It was good to see you and Barbara, and if all goes well, I guess we'll meet at least twice more in 1975.

Speaking of which, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

Did

November 15, 1974

Mr. John W. Vollmayer
1600 Ferris Lane
Reno, Nevada 89501

Dear John:

Just a quick note to thank you for your thoughtful letter of the 23rd of October which reached me in Peking on the 7th of November. We're settling in here enthusiastically and happily. I'm glad to know of your China past. I miss the political arena, but this is full-time, challenging work, and Barbara and I are both pleased to be here.

Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Yours very truly,

George Bush

GBush:lz (POUCH)

JOHN W. VOLLMAYER
1600 FERRIS LANE
RENO, NEVADA 89501

23 October, 1974

Honorable George Bush
Emissary, American Mission
PeKing, China.

Dear George,

Just a note wishing you the best of
congratulations on your previous "job well done" as
Chairman of the G.O.P., plus best of wishes for
an equally well job to be done in your current
capacity to Mainland China.

As an ex-Marine who served in China in '46,
our ^{P.A.} '45 class had several "China hands".

"Ding-how" + "gung-ho"

Cordially

John W. Vollmayer

P.S. Have some of the good PeKing-Duck, and when
in Teintsin, visit the "Be De" (if still going), Quai-
Quai

October 22, 1974

Professor Karl von Vorys
Department of Political Science CC
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 19174

Dear Karl:

That was a very thoughtful letter that
was on my desk when I got to China yester-
day.

Good luck with those wonderful classes
at the University. Some day I would like
to drop in again for another lively ex-
change.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

George Bush

GBush:lz (POUCH)

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19174

October 7, 1974

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE CC

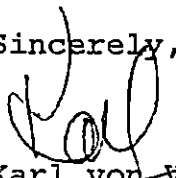
The Honorable George Bush
Head, American Liaison Office in the
People's Republic of China
c/o Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20521

Dear George,

We were sorry to hear that you will not be able to visit our class this semester. Our colleagues and students were very much looking forward to meeting you. We are all delighted, however, that you have assumed the extraordinarily important and challenging assignment in China. If anyone can successfully represent American interests in that strange and unstable environment, we believe, it is a man who combines an unreasonably keen mind with a cosmopolitan charm.

As scholars, citizens and your friends we wish you the very best and on your visits home, or at the completion of your assignment, we hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again.

Sincerely,


Karl von Vorys

KvV/pe

Photocopy from George Bush Presidential Library

von Vorys, Prof Karl

21. 9. 74

sent 12-24

Excellens,

Je vous prie, encore une fois :

Le plus représentative célébrité: Nobel, Lasker, Herder, sommité, ministres, chanceliers, premières, chefs d'état, présidents république, entier ont en la gentillesse, de m'envoyer une photo, avec autographe. -

Seulement, Vous, Vous, attendez. -

Je crois, que cette chose est due à vos occupations, mais, j'espère, qu'en peu de temps, Vous me ferez l'honneur est le plaisir, d'être auprès des autres. -

Dans cette attente, en Vous remerciant d'avance, veuillez agréer Excellens, mes salutations très distinguées, et mes respectueux hommages. -

Son!

V. Petrescu Vrancea, publiciste, membre:

V. PETRESCU VRANCEA
PUBLICIST
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J. N. P.
A. F. R., etc., etc.

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