

Tokyo, May 26, 9:45 p.m.

Dear Mom and Dad and Joani,

I've been a very bad girl for not writing you more often--please forgive me. I hope that you weren't worried about me. And hope you got my cable, Mom, which I sent knowing you'd be concerned at this time. I should have written sooner and I intended to each night, but I was actually so busy. Since the May 16th coup d'etat, I wrote 6 stories for AP and was trying to get last minute information for a couple of others. There was always something to do, and I never did get it all done very well.

So much has happened that I hardly know how to begin. First, I'm all right--no bullets were even fired at me. I was in Pusan during the big explosion on the 16th and called AP with a story on the situation there. From there, I went to Kyongju--supposedly a hot-spot tourist attraction of a "golden age" in Korean culture. But wasn't very good. I didn't get sick in Korea--but had a slight touch of dysentery that day. Then went back to Seoul and tried to write as much as I could. Hope that you saw some of the stories, but think that New York probably filed them under JUNK.

Tuesday, I went to the DMZ--the demilitarized zone--and spend a an interesting day. That's the place patrolled by RM. North Koreans on one side and the South Koreans and U. S. on the other. Supposed to be neutral, but it isn't. Both sides spy on each other. And it's supposed to be "demilitarized", but it isn't. Both sides can carry x non-automatic weapons in. It's a crazy mess.

~~XXXXX~~ Monday, I had interviewed ~~thex~~ Mrs. Chang do-Young, the wife of the head of the military revolutionary committee and now prime minister. Hope you got to see the story. Was sorty of fun. She's fairly Americanized, but still alot of Korean too. Their official residence--for the chief of staff of army--was large and spacious, but very poorly furnished. In the guest room, there ~~wxxx~~ were 2 davenports facing each other covered with mousey looking material and a small coffee table inbetween. She served me tea and delicious strawberries that had a sirupy white sauce on top. Was great.

I keep wondering how you all are--and hope that everything is fine. Joanie, what's new with you and Vienna--except the arrival JFK? Does this bring alot more work to you and the Embassy? And how is Gramps? And what does Stewie have to say about you Mom? Dad, I keep assuming you're okay--or are you still getting shots also.

On May 25, Thursday, I interviewed the wife of Maj. Gen. Pak Chung-Hi, the big wheel who engineered the whole revolt. She was exceptionally nice--typically Korean, soft-spoken, shy and modest. Mrs. Chang was rather vain and artificial in trying to be too Westernized.

Left at 2 p.m. from Tokyo and arrived here at 5:30. Am now staying at this hotel, but will probably move again. Sort of out of the way and rather expensive. Will write you more about ~~xxxx~~ where to write me. I haven't checked the AP office here since I got in too late, but hope that you have letters for me. I'd better have one from ~~that~~ sister of mine or I feel ~~xxxx~~ sorry for her.

Incidentally, Mother, I mailed you a small box of materials I collected on Korea, plus a lot of my notes. It's in a Coca Cola box--very dilapidated--will probably never make it, but let me know if you do or don't get it. Have carbons of most of the stuff. Also, did you get the first small box of stuff I sent you from Korea--and Joanie did you get the small ~~envelope~~ ~~envelope~~ envelope with pin in it. Hope so. Sent them sea mail, so will probably take an age.

I figured out that this Korean jaunt cost me \$321.60--including \$135.60 plane fare, round-trip. So will probably have to negotiate with the AP bureau here for money. Hope that I can meet expenses here.

About the coup--it really didn't affect me too much. They were fairly kind to foreigners--not strict at all. When I came in from Kyongju, I arrived passed 10 p.m., the curfew hr. No ~~taxi~~ taxis or busses to take me to a hotel. I was with a young college boy who had gone with me as interpreter. Finally a couple of U. S. MP's dropped me off at a hotel downtown. And then I had to be in at 10 and later at 11 curfew hour, which didn't hurt me. I made it every night except one--when the AP man dropped me off. The press could go anywhere at any time. But I didn't have a curfew pass.

And actually, it was pretty hard for a change in the govt. to affect the lives of most of the people anyhow. Life goes on pretty much like always--except they have more to talk and stew about. I don't know what will happen there. The situation doesn't look too good. But, with tighter govt. control and less corruption, a lot could be done. But even then Korea isn't going to be paradise. They have started out a pretty high-handed fashion--some say they're a carbon copy of the dictatorship under Rhee. But they might

curbed later, tho I doubt it.

I'm hoping to write an article on the ~~agri~~ farmer's life in Korea. Its areally an exaggeration to call them farmers--they're actually good gardners. Each farmer has so little land. Hope to start working on that tomorrow, after checking things around town.

I'm getting a little groggy right now. Will quite ffor now and write more later--and more often. I should cable you that I'm ok, but think I best save my dough.

Please do write. I'll pick up my mail tomorrow and then write me later.

Love,

cc:
Mam
cc: - John