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November 12, 1965

SAIGON, SOUTH VIET NAM--The G.I.'s here are receiving thousands of letters from American citizens at home.

The Greater Long Island Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO) has also sent a message of support from their 100,000-man organization, according to reliable sources.

Other citizens, mostly students, are sending long telegrams of signatures avowing support for the American troops here. More than 1,000 ~~of~~ students from Princeton University have sent a cablegram measuring 14½ feet long to General William C. Westmoreland, commander of American Military Command, expressing support for the American servicemen. Students from Marquette University of Milwaukee, Wisc., have sent a cable telegram through commercial channels that measures eighteen feet long.

A telegram from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., read: "In three days 15,872 MSU students signed a petition to show support for the United States fighting forces in Southeast Asia." The telegram was signed by the MSU Veterans Association.

Students from the University of Cincinnati, Xavier University, Our lady of Cincinnati College have sent a two-inch thick packet of signatures.

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The student organizations of the University of Illinois at Congress Circle, Chicago, wrote in a letter "we are deeply concerned over the demonstrations against United States involvement in Vietnam and the draft-card burning. We want to do almost anything in our power to counter these activities." The students requested information ^{about} of ~~sending~~ adopting an American battalion (about 600 men) for Christmas.

Many of the other letters also request information about sending candies, ^{And gifts} ~~and~~ cookies to the American servicemen ^{for} ~~for~~ Christmas. One Oklahoma housewife recently telephoned General E Westmoreland directly to ask "how to go about it;" one housewife from Ohio has already sent three boxes of Christmas cards.

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The employees working for a chain of five department stores in San Antonio, Tex., wrote a letter ~~announcing~~ saying "each store wants to adopt a unit to help with civic action," the people-to-people programs which are conducted by American servicemen for Vietnamese citizens.

From New York City (333 East 14th St.) Pamela Landou wrote General Westmoreland in a series of letters, "There is a growing mound of books in my living room....A few friends and I gathered some books together to send to South Vietnam to brighten the soldiers' leisure hours. It is a small thing, we know, but we just want you and your men to know that we care."

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Many of letters, addressed "Any GI G. I. in Vietnam, Headquarters U. S. MAC-V, San Francisco, Calif 96243, have been written by ~~gr~~² grade school children. The first graders of the Rosylin Road School in Barrington, Ill., signed mimeographed letters and drew individual pictures to send to the G. I.'s. SEE ENCLOSURE

Some of the letters specify "an Arizona Marine," or a "Massachusetts Soldier."

In the billeting compound in Pleiku, the corps headquarters ~~was~~^{which} mortared February 7th of this year and lead to the initial bombing of North Vietnam, ~~the following~~^a letter from Chris Hall of Phoenix, Ariz., was posted on the bulletin board, next to the ~~rotat pivo~~^a a listing of pilot's assignments for combat missions. The letter read:

Dear G. I.,

I am an eighth grade student in Madison Park School.

I am very interested in the war going on now. I wrote this letter to thank you for what you're doing ~~ter~~ there. I hope you keep up the good work.

All the 7th and 8th graders in our school are all writing to G. I.'s. We all agree it is a very worthwhile cause. The two grades together have written about 300 letters. We hope to write over 2,000

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(letter continued)

To change the subject, I am 13 years old. And I have a brother who is attending Arizona State. He is 18. I have two horses, a dog and a parrot.

Well, I'd better sign off now. If you have any free time, please write. I would sure enjoy hearing from ~~you~~ you.

Sincerely yours,
Chris Hall
314 West Oregon
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

The letters pour into a small two-desk office of the command information center of the Military Assistance Command, where they are stacked on a ~~steel~~ steel table.

~~Pointing~~
~~Pointing~~ to several thousand letters, one of the officers explained, "This is just three day's worth of letters. The post office people are ~~going~~ really working. These letters have doubled the mail volume—and the volume is expected to double again by Christmas.

"The real fun in this office begins at 5:30 p.m.," he lamented. "That's when the sergeant and I have to look through all those letters for our own. I haven't heard from my wife for weeks because of all of this."

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Another officer explained, "One of the most remembered letters sent here said something like, 'I'm five-foot-two ^a ~~high~~, blonde, 17 years old, and weight 115 pounds. I would like to marry someone ~~h~~ who has fought or is fighting in Vietnam. Can you help me'.

"We didn't answer that letter," the officer ~~explained~~ explained. "But we'll post it at the USO. She'll have alot of letters to answer too."

The anti-Vietnam ~~ix~~ demonstrations in the United States have stiffened the ~~pro~~ pro-Vietnam attitudes of the American serviceman here, but has in some cases produced some bitterness.

^{Before} ~~During~~ the nine-day siege of the famous Plei Me Special Forces ^{Last month,} camp, "we got the newspapers telling about the anti-Vietnam demonstrations in the United States," recalled Capt. Harold M. Moore, 24, of Pekin, Ill., the American detachment commander. "That was really bad news.

"Then ~~the next days~~ we got hit that night we got hit. The next day things were temporarily quiet and we thought the fight was over. We were going to make signs and ~~photograph~~ and take ~~signs~~ photographs with the napalm burning in the background. I was going to say on the signs for them to make a protest march from Pleiku to Plei Me. These demonstrations are really bad news; we don't appreciate them one bit."

Plei Me lies 25 miles south of Pleiku; Vietnamese government forces ~~and~~ engaged ~~in~~ heavy fighting with the Viet Cong to relieve the