

The Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the
Panel of External Consultants
August 14th and 15th

Professor H. B. Jacobini, Director of the Center reviewed the recruitment status for professorial positions in the various departments of the University. Three departments are on record as not willing to cooperate with the Center in terms of hiring faculty: History, Philosophy, and Geography. On the positive side, the departments which have expressed an interest in this regard are:

- I. Government (William Turley is still a hopeful)
- II. Economics--There are special problems in Economics in that members of this department do not look on an area specialty as being helpful to the discipline. However, agricultural industries is interested and does include developmental economics.
- III. Anthropology--Anthropology is still looking. There are possibilities of giving readings in ethnology.

At this point, Professor Donnell stated that this points up one of the reasons that possession of the Coedes collection would be mighty important. That is, to draw people to SIU. The availabilities of materials has a lot to do with what direction students take.

IV. Foreign Languages--Professor Nguyen Khac Hoach will be teaching Vietnamese Literature as a member of the Foreign Languages Department. A new faculty member will be teaching Chinese in the same department.

In addition to the above, the Center is in the process of developing interdisciplinary courses in the area of general studies. This may compensate for the lack of input from various departments. For instance, a two-quarter course could be offered in Indo-Chinese humanities.

Mr. Hobbs asked if the newcomers on the faculty were coming in in temporary or permanent positions. Jacobini replied these positions were temporary because the department's do not offer tenure the first year. There seems to be a possibility the University could offer tenure the first year and that this would be a very attractive package for a prospective professor.

Professor Voth then stated that he has an opening to do virtually anything under the guide of readings. Additionally, he will develop a course on comparative Vietnamese and Philippine social stratification. This course has yet to be designed, submitted, or approved.

Professor Hoa gave the rundown of the Vietnamese language and literature courses. Courses on Elementary, intermediate, and advanced Vietnamese language are offered, although elementary Vietnamese is only offered in the fall. Furthermore, an intensive Vietnamese course of three hours contact and one hour of lab is presently being offered during the summer term. In the future, we would also hope to offer courses in Sino-Vietnamese as well as have students elect to take courses in Chinese.

Professor Donnell asked about Professor Fishel's trip to Vietnam and the reaction of scholars regarding publication. He felt strongly that if the Center were to publish articles of recognized leftist scholars it would be extremely helpful to in establishing ourselves as a Center. Professor Jacobini responded to the effect that they had had promises and enthusiastic responses from the several leftists that they did contact. Indeed, they had been offered articles for the Journal from a number of these people.

The discussion then turned to the publication program of the Center which was described by the Director. Program consists, as presently envisaged, as being comprised of the following:

1. the Journal--Southeast Asia, An International Quarterly
2. books, monographs (of various sources), reprints, and translations
3. Dr. Jacobini raised the possibility of a student journal, something comparable to the student journal of law.

The concept was then discussed and compared to occasional papers, monographs, and data papers. Professor Hobbs offered that this could well be tied into the School of Journalism. Others felt this was too ambitious and, especially in the present stage of development of the Center, should not be attempted.

The Director then went on to describe the Vietnamese resource collection project being carried out by the University Museum. A team from the University is presently in Vietnam making the collection which will be shipped back here for multidimensional teaching purposes.

Professor Donnell then asked about our interest in North Vietnam. Professor Jacobini replied that we are concerned with anything that has "academic viability". However we have been warned from all quarters that we will not be successful. Professor Jacobini then reviewed what attempts have been made to make contact with scholars in Paris and with scholars in North Vietnam itself.

Peter Gillingham asked what was being done in the Soviet Block, particularly Eastern Europe. He then listed several centers of Southeast Asian studies or other centers with mutual interests in Prague and other Eastern European countries. Since no one at the meeting had any familiarity or cognizance of such centers. Mr. Gillingham agreed to send a list of these institutions on paper along with his thoughts as to how they could relate to the Center. He then suggested that we consider a symposium on "How to Affect Academic and Cultural Relations with North Vietnam". Such a symposium could be held in cooperation with American Friend Service Committee and would be both useful for our standing among the academic and non-academic community and would be a project which would be amenable to outside funding. In this latter connection he referred specifically to an Italian foundation by the name of "perou". Professor Donnell reconciled that it is impossible to reconcile various factions who have long been at odds. Mr. Gillingham submitted that the AFPC, which was just one of many alternative sources for co-sponsorship, has been doing this sort of thing ever since the early 40's.

The Director then went on to say that there were three topics remaining that he would like to discuss. They are:

1. library development
2. sisterhood
3. the role of the panel of external consultants.

As to the role of the Panel of External Consultants, Professor Jacobini said that it should discuss whether or not the panel should act as individuals or as a group. It should also discuss ways in which it can be more effective. Mr. Whitfield suggested that there were two deficiencies during the first year of operation in regards to the panel, both of which are easily rectified. The first is that the panel members have, by and large, failed to submit to the director written reports which are most helpful. Secondly, the Center has failed, in turn, to notify the members of the panel what action has been taken on their advice.

Professor Jacobini then said that he would like to solicit the thoughts of the members of the panel as to what a Center for Vietnamese Studies and ^{Programs} should be. When pressed about a clarification of his question, he asked that special attention be paid to the problems of maintaining academic integrity. Also, it has come to his attention that various people connected with the Center have various and different concepts of what the Center can be and should be. He invited the members of the panel to send in their thoughts later.

The discussion then turned to the subject of sisterhood relationships with Vietnamese universities. The Director briefed the group on conclusions that he reached as a result of his trip to Vietnam:

1. that there were grave and serious sensitivities which

must be taken into consideration in attempting to effect any kind of a relationship with Vietnamese universities. These include the problems of Vietnamese-American relationships, a complex on the part of Vietnamese educators that they would be the poorer trying to relate to the very rich.

2. That any beginnings of a relationship should start modestly.

3. That any kind of a sisterhood relationship would desirably evolve as the opportunities and requirements arise. In this fashion, although a very strong and broad relationship might develop, one might never hear the word sisterhood.

This led into the problem of library development and micro-filming of Vietnamese materials in Vietnam itself. Professor Jacobini stated his reluctance to go to Vietnam and collect books, documents, and other valuable items and ship them back to our country. Even microfilming for our own purposes without any regard to the host countries' needs and sensitivities seemed quite undesirable. One compromise might be to microfilm collections in cooperation with Vietnamese universities, retain the microfilm and present the original copy to the Vietnamese university as a gift.

Mr. Hobbs agreed that treasures should remain in Vietnam.

Peter Gillingham suggested that a Vietnamese committee be formed to organize microfilming in Vietnam. This committee could identify collections or works to be microfilmed, evaluated, and coordinate the actual microfilming project. Mr. Gillingham also referred to the experience of Cornell in , in the Philippines as being an example of a very satisfactory and strong sisterhood relationship. We should consider having Vietnamese faculty members actually be a faculty adviser to certain graduate

students. He could be reimbursed in his services in the form of books which he would choose for himself. Professor Hoa suggested that this has two dangers: firstly, the danger of creating first class citizens of the professors, and the second danger that of creating first class graduate students.

The group agreed that exchange of publication offers a good basis for a relationship. Professor Hoa suggested that the Center could publish the best of the memoirs, or the best theses, to come out of the Vietnamese academic institutions in any one given year.

Mr. Hobbs requested to ask three questions: (1) in reference to a previous mention of the possibility of having David Ray assigned to the Library of Congress for a period of time to aid in the cataloging of Vietnamese books, Mr. Hobbs asked if this was a subject for serious consideration? and then he asked if so, if he would be paid by the Center. Professor Jacobini and Mr. Whitfield replied that it certainly was a possibility, however, there seems to be a gigantic backlog of work for Mr. Ray here at the Center. His assignment or detachment to the Library of Congress could only be considered when his work load at the Center permitted. (2) in reference to microfilming archives and other documents in Vietnam, Mr. Hobbs suggested that Dr. Hoa would be the logical person to go to Vietnam. Possibly a two to three month period would be sufficient to accomplish the necessary tasks. Dr. Hoa agreed to the concept but felt that for reasons of other obligations it would be impossible for him to go at the present time.

Professor Fishel then gave a brief history of the development of the journal. He said that they had received twelve manuscripts and had dismissed seven others. He is still holding to the January 1 deadline but is experiencing difficulties in making arrangements for the printing. Due to the reorganization of the University, all printing operations have been suspended in Central Publications. (Except for college catalogues, small brochures, etc.) Dr. Fishel then gave a description of the articles on hand and entered a discussion of the cost of the journal.

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