

Committee of Deans and Coordinators

DEC 31 1969

O/FSI/VTC - Ogden Williams /SI

Nomination of Dr. Hoang Van Chi
for Designation as Visiting Lecturer

1. Dr. Hoang has lectured at the Viet-Nam Training Center since its establishment, appearing before each Basic Course class, roughly each six weeks since May 1967.
2. About the candidate:
 - a. Born October 1, 1915, Tan Hua Province, North Viet-Nam.
 - b. University of Hanoi - Phys. Chem. - Biology (1936); Medicine, three years. (He does not in fact have a doctorate, since Japanese occupation interrupted his graduate studies.)
 - c. and d. His career has been most unusual — member of the Viet Minh decorated by the late Ho Chi Minh (whom his father knew), employed by the Diem Government, credited with creating the term "Viet Cong," expatriate in France 1960-1965, and in the United States since then. He has seen almost all sides of everything Vietnamese.
 - e. Dr. Hoang is the author of From Colonialism to Communism, a Case History of North Viet-Nam. Not everyone agrees with his accounts or interpretations therein; he does nonetheless supply an unmatched personalized view of events and the leading figures in them. This, together with his scholarship, is the basis of his reputation.
 - f. Dr. Hoang's lectures on a Vietnamese view of communism are an exception to the general rule of pertinence to CORDS advisory duties. They give the Viet-Nam Training Center students a taste of refined Vietnamese philosophy and criticism. This is especially valuable for military officers, who tend to find Dr. Hoang even more interesting than do their civilian colleagues.
 - g. Dr. Hoang's English is good. He holds attention more by the esoteric nature of his subject than by lecturing skill. His material is well organized and logically presented. His

knowledgeability is unquestioned, and he succeeds in presenting very effectively a unique critical analysis of theological, traditional oriental philosophical, and of Marxist-Leninist (and Mao-ist) dialectics.

h. Without Dr. Hoang, CORDS classes would lack an ingredient which we consider very useful to the shaping of a rounded view of Viet-Nam. We wish to record our appreciation of his past services and to help insure their continuation. We therefore recommend that he be designated visiting lecturer for calendar year 1970. As of this date, Civil Service Commission action is pending on his appointment to full-time AID employment at AID's Washington Training Center. Such employment will not preclude his continuing to lecture at O/FSI/VTC.