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cc: Personal

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

March 2, 1970

Honorable Nguyen-Ngoc-An  
118 Cu Xa Tran-Quang-Dieu  
Saigon, Viet-Nam

Dear Minister An:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 1970 and for the fine gift which you sent me. I shall wear the cuff links and tie pin with great pleasure. You are entirely too generous.

Regarding your suggestion that you might work with us at this school, I am exploring the possibilities now. Of course, nothing would please me more than to have you with us. If your duties were to teach language only, I think this would be much below your distinction as a former Minister of Viet-Nam and as principal of private schools in Viet-Nam. I think we would have to find a position in which you could make a broader contribution.

In this connection, I have also written to Dr. Wesley Fishel at the Center for Vietnamese Studies, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. I do not know whether they are now looking for Vietnamese visiting professors on their staff, but if they were, I believe that a position such as that would possibly be more in consonance with your distinguished status than anything available here at our little training center. Nevertheless, I am working on this problem, and will do everything I can to give you a chance to visit the United States while awaiting what I hope will be your return to a political position in Viet-Nam. Among other things, would you not wish to run for the Senate so that you could wield influence within the Government?

I have been asked to spend the month of April in Thailand looking at the insurgent areas in that country, and during that time I will definitely visit Saigon, although I do not yet know the exact date. I am not able to leave Washington until March 31, and must report directly to Bangkok to begin work. After April 30 I will, of course, be returning here to Washington.

Again, Mr. Minister, my deep appreciation for your kindness. In this letter I can only tell you that I am working to arrange something for you in the United States, and will keep in touch as soon as something specific is found. I take one hour each day of spoken Vietnamese here at our school, so I will be able to say a few things in Vietnamese when we meet!

With my high regard and best wishes, until we meet in person.

Sincerely,

Ogden Williams  
Coordinator  
Viet-Nam Training Center