

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

January 13, 1970

Dr. John Lydgate
Assistant Professor of History
Georgetown University
Washington, D. C. 20007

Dear John:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent today to Ambassador Bui Diem. I do not know whether the Vietnamese are, in fact, organizing a delegation of visiting professors or whether this is an idea that got started but died along the way. In any case, I hope the letter does some good.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

/S/

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Enclosure:
As stated

O/FSI/VTC:OWilliams:pak



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE

January 13, 1970

His Excellency Bui Diem
Embassy of Viet-Nam
2251 R Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Bui Diem:

Referring to my letter of November 17, 1969, I take this occasion again to support the candidacy of Professor John Lydgate to be a member of any delegation invited by the Government of Viet-Nam to visit Viet-Nam.

Enclosed is a copy of Professor Lydgate's most recent letter to Mr. Nguyen Hoan. I do not know if the Vietnamese Government is, in fact, inviting American professors to see for themselves the situation in Viet-Nam but, if so, I think Professor Lydgate would be an excellent candidate.

On another subject, we again much appreciated your appearance before our students January 5. Your authoritative grasp of the situation and your flexible approach to the problems involved always make an excellent impression on our students, and we hope that you will be able from time to time to help us as you have done in the past.

With many thanks and best regards,

Sincerely,

haw

Ogden Williams
Coordinator
Viet-Nam Training Center

Enclosure:
Letter dated 1/8/70

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

January 8, 1970

Mr. Nguyen Hoan, Counsellor
Embassy of Vietnam
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Mr. Hoan:

I appreciate your taking the time to see me this afternoon in connection with my interest in travelling to Vietnam to see something of the country whose politics and history I teach to students here at the University.

Briefly, I first became interested in Southeast Asia in 1954, and I received my B.A. from Yale and Ph.D. from London at the School of Oriental and African Studies. For the past three years I have been lecturing on Vietnamese history at the School of Foreign Service.

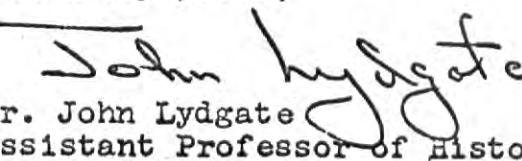
Since 1965 I have been a critic of the United States military policy in Vietnam, feeling that political considerations had been unduly subordinated to military events. Accordingly, I always tried in my courses and seminars with students to reconcile political policy with military strategy, which I now believe Mr. Nixon's policy of withdrawal has a fair possibility of achieving.

But this is the point: How can we professors in our nation's universities be expected to meet the students (usually over the barricades) unless governments, yours and ours, meet us halfway with help such as on-the-spot exposure. Only this can give weight to what we are trying to do in the classroom. We are trying not to argue one way or another but simply to understand the historical situation.

I enclose an outline of a speech I gave to the Moratorium Committee in this regard.

If, indeed, an early opportunity arises to be invited to visit your country, I shall be grateful if you would consider me as a candidate.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. John Lydgate
Assistant Professor of History