

Gil:

Here is my draft of the minutes of the last meeting; please look it over and return. Thanks.

Lou

OK as changed

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee, April 12, 1961, 4 p.m. at the residence of the Chairman, Mr. Buttinger, 10 East 87th Street, New York City;

Present: Buttinger, Jonas, Leerburger, Henderson, Fishel, Emmett

Guest: Ladejinsky.

Presiding: Buttinger

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the guests after which the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without amendmenet.

Report of the

2. /Chairman of the Executive Committee: Mr. Buttiger ~~map~~ noted ~~amant~~ important recent political developments in Vietnam:

a. The attempted coup of November 11: it was proper for the AFV to express opinions on the situation

b. The Laos situation and its direct bearing on Vietnam

c. Increased Communist aggression in Vietnam. Mr. Buttinger observed that ^{although} the means used to counteract aggression have kept up with the intensity of the ~~mm~~ Communists' efforts since last winter.

d. The presidential elections of April 9. The Chairman noted that the results were very satisfactory and that the accompanying events also were better than expectations had led observers to believe. This may demonstrate, he added, the inability of the Communists to have done more in the last week before the election.

Following these observations on Vietnam itself, the Chairman noted that he had participated recently in a ^{student discussion} ~~student discussion~~ of Vietnam at Yale University.

3. Report of the Secretary. Mr. Jonas reported that the fund appeal of October 1960 had been the most successful ever issued; ^{although} there was a sharp drop in returns immediately following the coup in November, he noted, ^{the} ~~but added that~~ returns shortly thereafter began to increase. Total regular AFV contributors now number more than 3,000.

The Secretary reported that a new appeal had been sent out at the end of March and

that the first six days had brought in approximately \$4700, thus indicating a good final figure.

Mr. Jonas noted that the press has recently become very cognizant of the security situation in Vietnam, as witnessed by the many recent articles centering around the elections and the security situation.

4. Report of the Executive Secretary: ~~Mr. Andreatta~~ Mr. Andreatta reported on the following items:

National Committee membership: Former Senator Murray and Dr. Tom Dooley had died;

Representatives A. S. J. Carnahan (Missouri) and Wier (Minnesota) were no longer

Members of Congress; R. Sargent Shriver *President* had accepted membership on the Committee.

Dalat Center for Mountaineers. At the last meeting, the Executive Secretary noted,

it was decided to begin efforts to assist this Center by soliciting drugs and other supplies. Since that time \$17,800 worth of pharmaceuticals *have* ~~had~~ been *shipped* ~~sent~~ collected and additional supplies were still being ~~gathered~~ for future shipments.

University of Hue: Books and educational materials sent since the last meeting totalled \$800, *During this time* drugs and medical supplies for the new School of Medicine of the University with a value of \$7,360 *have* ~~had~~ been *shipped* ~~sent~~. Mr. Andreatta noted that the medical school had requested about \$15,000 worth of books for the medical library and that AFV would attempt to obtain these from publishers and other sources, while still continuing the program *in* other educational materials and medical supplies.

A smaller quantity of materials had also been sent to the University of Saigon, Mr. Andreatta noted.

Exhibit of ~~ambian~~ Handicrafts. The handicraft portion of the large Smithsonian Institution exhibition opened at Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, under the co-sponsorship of the Hall and AFV in January and was well attended and received. The Ambassador and *honored guest* ~~Mme. Chuong~~ were among those present to attend the opening night reception. A smaller exhibit of reproductions ~~andman~~ of antiquities as well as contemporary ceramics is being circulated throughout the country as part of the organization's public information program.

5. A ppointment of Nominating Committee: Mr. Buttinger read to the group the appointments of General O'Daniel to the Nominating Committee for this year's elections. The Committee is to be chaired by Mr. Buttinger and will have has members Messrs. Leerburger and Newcomb. It was pointed out that The Hon. Angier Biddle Duke will no longer be able to serve as Vice-Chairman as a result of his appointment as Chief of Protocol; Mr. Kenneth Young, who has been appointed Ambassador to Thailand, is expected to resign from the Executive Committee, but will remain on the ~~Executive~~ National Committee.

6. New Business:

New Ambassador to Vietnam: Mr. ~~Buttinger~~ ^{Buttinger}, the new U. S. Ambassador to Vietnam, will be in Washington from April 18-28. It was suggested that he be invited to an informal dinner with ~~members~~ members of the Executive Committee and of the National Committee to discuss the Vietnamese situation.

Oral History Project: Dr. Fishel reported on his discussions at Columbia University with C. Martin Wilbur and Louis Starr to discuss an oral history project dealing with Vietnam. The span of time would be flexible but would include the end of the civil war, the Geneva conference, partition, etc. AFV would assist in guidance and collaboration.

Laos and Vietnam: Mr. Emmet, noting that AFV had played a part in the history of Vietnam, suggested that the ~~group~~ ^{group} should be making a contribution to the present discussion of policy on Laos. He suggested two possible courses of action: a statement of Policy on Laos which would urge a step-up in aid and a conference of the non-SEATO powers; and a conference--public or private--to discuss U. S. policy on Laos and its repercussions in Vietnam as soon as possible.

Mr. Buttinger pointed out that a public statement or conference would probably not be very effective. Mr. Fishel ~~would modify~~ ^{suggested modifying} Mr. Emmett's proposal by having private, informal discussions with appropriate persons in Washington to point out the effects of actions in Laos on Vietnam. Mr. Emmett then suggested that AFV send a delegation to Washington as outlined by Dr. Fishel.

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Conference on Problems of National Partnership: Mr. Henderson, Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Conference, reported that the Committee had decided to postpone the meeting temporarily. ~~mm~~ He noted that the prospects for a conference would be re-examined by his committee in the Fall.

Conference on Social Development and Welfare in Vietnam: Dr. Fishel, Chairman of the Conference, noted that the new title for the book which will result from the Conference is "Problems of Freedom: South Vietnam Since Geneva"; publication, he noted, is tentatively set for June 1, 1961.

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.