

Fig 4 June
"to Over / Ry."

August 13, 1965

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Chester Cooper
Room 374 A
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chat,

In preparing to leave on this visit to Vietnam, I thought it would be useful to bring you up to date in a fairly concise fashion on our situation as of the present moment.

1. You have been kept informed, I believe, of Mr. Reisin's activities. These are proceeding at an intensified pace as his contacts increase and programs get underway.
2. Vietnam Perspectives will make its appearance next week as promised. A second issue is already being planned, and part of the content has already been received. All things being equal, it should make its appearance one month after issue No. 1, which will mean that two issues will have been published and distributed to an extensive mailing list of key people in public life and on campuses before the opening of the fall academic term.
3. The Speakers Bureau and related activities are well underway, and we have already received a number of requests for speakers for the fall and winter months. This ties-in closely with Mr. Reisin's work with student organizations and other non-official groups.
4. The "Village Adoption Program" has now spread to some thirty organizations which have indicated firm intentions to participate. These include universities and college groups as well as Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and other such organizations.

I am motivated to make this report at this time in part because I am leaving the United States for the next month and wanted you to have a summary of our activities as of the present, but equally importantly because, as you will recall, our initial budgetary projections were for a three-month period (June, July, August), and after August 31,

August 13, 1965

it will be necessary for us to discontinue all programs beyond those in which we were engaged before June, unless, we are able to secure additional financing within the next week. It will not be possible for us to continue to employ Mr. Reisin or a substitute after that date, nor will it be possible for us even to publish a second issue of Vietnam Perspectives without such assistance. I think you can understand, that with Mr. Reisin's responsibilities in the New York School System, which begins its fall term during the first week of September, we can not turn to him at the beginning of September and ask him to throw over those responsibilities, his job security, etc., in the expectation that we may be able to support him appropriately throughout the school year. By the same token, though Mr. Nally is willing to continue as our editor for the time being, we can not continue his activity nor even pay for the printing and distribution of the Journal without additional means. I think you will also recall that the Journal was an activity beyond that originally contemplated in the initial budget presentation and for which we are presently extending funds which were intended for other activities.

I know that you agree with me on the essentiality of these various programs, and I do not for a moment doubt the good will of those who will assist us in carrying them out. I do think it imperative, however, to keep in mind the fact that we can not function indefinitely on a day-to-day basis and must have immediate cooperation and reciprocal evidence of good faith in order to carry on effectively.

Very sincerely,

Wesley R. Fishel

WRP:lb