

For your information

A proposal by
the Vietnam
Forum of
Boston University

VIETNAM FORUM

SISTER CITY PROPOSAL

The following is a proposal for the establishment of a "sister city" relationship between the cities of Boston, Massachusetts and Hue, Vietnam. This concept was formulated after various discussions between Vietnamese in the Greater Boston area and Washington, D.C. and members and friends of the Vietnam Forum.

It was immediately decided that to insure the success of a program, it would be necessary to obtain the support of a number of civic-minded individuals and organizations throughout the Greater Boston area. Because of the broad scope of such a proposal the opportunity of a wide variety of activities demand active participation of groups involved in cultural, educational, business, religious and other functions, which contribute to the rich life of the "New Boston". The Vietnam Forum is willing to do its share of the planning and formulation of such a program, but we need your help.

WHY HUE?

As New York has often been compared to Saigon, by the Vietnamese, Hue has been called the "Boston of Vietnam". At one time that city was the Capital and major cultural center of Vietnam. Today it still remains the main depository of the ancient traditions of Vietnam, just as Boston is the depository of our traditions of independence and freedom. As Boston, Hue has recently experienced a rejuvenation. The universities and schools of that city are considered to be the most progressive in the Far East. Hue like Boston is built around a river running through its center. In many ways, then, Hue and Boston are "sisters".

WHO'S INTERESTED?

This program would not be merely a government-to-government exchange, but rather a "people-to-people concept. There is a wide range of possibilities for exchange of ideas. The most obvious participants in such a program would be :

1. University Organizations
2. Business Groups and Corporations
3. Cultural Organizations
4. Women's Clubs
5. Religious Groups

Of course, the major impetus would have to come from the people of Boston and the people of Hue.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

There are a number of areas of possible exchange. We will try to list a few examples.

1. Exchange of students and Professors between Hue University and Boston University.
2. Exchange of Business and Community leaders (Heads of Business concerns, the Mayors, the City Councils)
3. Cultural exchange (Art Exhibits, Music Festivals, and Theatrical groups)
4. Establishment of trade centers to promote business exchange.

THE PROPOSAL

In order to achieve an effective organized program, we proposed that a Liaison Office be established in both cities. These offices would have a small staff (one full-time) and would be financed by participating groups and interested individuals.

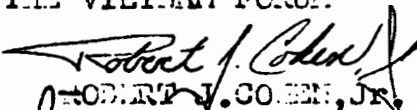
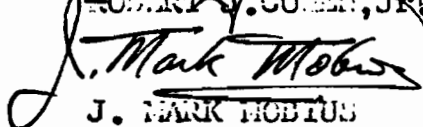
THE PURPOSE

The bloody war in Vietnam and the confusion arising out of that war makes it imperative that there be a greater understanding between the peoples of Vietnam and the United States. The guerrilla is not only a war of arms, but a war of minds and ideologies. The Vietnamese people must come to understand the American way of life and the reason for our heavy involvement in that war. By the same token, the American

people must come to understand the problems of the Vietnamese and why this war is so difficult for them.

Although we realize that efforts have already been made in this direction (The American Friends of Vietnam in New York), we feel that much more must be done on the "grass-roots" level. The Hue-Boston Exchange Program will be a step in the right direction.

THE VIETNAM FUND.


ROBERT J. COHEN, JR.

J. MARK HOBBS