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TO: General Lansdale  
FROM: R. C. Phillips  
SUBJECT: Colonel Chau

On 16 August, Chau told me that he preferred to quit the Ministry of Revolutionary Development altogether if this were possible. He would like to work on a private foundation project targetted at Vietnamese youth. He asked your intervention with General Thang in granting his request. Chau says Thang fears that if Chau leaves the Ministry Chau would talk against him but this is silly. Chau said he respects Thang and what Thang is trying to do and that he would never attempt to undercut Thang.

Chau said if it were not possible for him to leave the Ministry, then he would like to be reassigned to another position other than the cadre program. He suggested that an office for Research and Planning might be created in which he felt he could be very helpful. This office would handle the long-range planning for the Ministry and help it create a clearer ideology and set of objectives to guide its actions. It would also study and evaluate specific aspects of RD programs.

John Vann saw Chau on 17 August and reports via Len Maynard that Chau would be willing to take on interim projects such as the briefing of the District Chiefs, a study of the proposed hamlet-village election regulations and preparations for these elections.

My suggestion is that Thang be approached by you with the idea of making Chau a Special Assistant to the Minister and charging him with specific tasks such as those outlined above. If you feel this is workable, I will double check back with Chau to be sure that he'll accept if asked by Thang.

SLO:RCPPhillips:pag  
August 18, 1966

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