

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

THE VIETNAM CENTER

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Fax Memorandum

August 31, 1999

To: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

From: James R. Reckner

Subj: Vietnam Initiatives

Attached please find notes from yesterday's working lunch with Chancellor Montford. As you will see, he is anxious to press ahead on a number of fronts with Vietnam-related projects.

The library/book exchange program doubtless will go through without difficulty. Our principal concern here will be cost of shipping the books to Vietnam. And we will take steps to ensure in advance that those that are sent are ones they have indicated they wish. Among others, we will make a significant contribution of military books to the People's Army Central Library in Hanoi, particularly of American books about the Vietnam War.

Dr. Ron Frankum and Khanh Le will return to Vietnam later this year to offer the library and archival management course in Hue, Saigon and Can Tho.

The scholarships, I believe, are a good idea, and the money for the first round is already assured. The additional \$20,000 seems quite certain at the beginning of 2000.

The project for strengthening plant genetic stocks is one of great significance. I expect to be briefing Cassidy & Associates when I get to Washington, probably going there shortly after calling on you on 15 September.

encl:

xc: Vice Admiral Tidd (via mail)

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Vietnam Initiatives Notes, Luncheon Meeting, 30 August 1999

Present: Chancellor John T. Montford, Dean of Libraries Dr. E. Dale Cluff, TTUHSC Associate Vice President James Laible, TTUHSC Director of Managed Health Care Lynne Hudson, Horn Professor Henry Nguyen of Plant & Soil Science, Dr. Ron Frankum, Mr. Khanh Le, Dr. James R. Reckner

Principal Initiatives: Chancellor Montford opened the discussion by saying there were four principal initiatives that he wanted to follow-up on:

1. **Financial Support for Vietnamese Students**
2. **Libraries**
3. **Health Care and Medical Equipment**
4. **Student/Faculty Exchanges**

The Chancellor feels it is important for us to take prompt action to reinforce our credibility. As he sees it, we have a certain amount of credibility in Vietnam right now; however, some positive action on our part is necessary.

Scholarships for Vietnamese

Concerning scholarships, the Chancellor came away from Vietnam with the impression that scholarships of US\$100 each would make a significant contribution to a student's tuition; that it amounted, more or less, to a full year's tuition. If we gave each university \$1,000 it would equal 10 \$100 scholarships.

The question raised was, how would this be received by the Vietnamese? Were there any cultural considerations that should be borne in mind? In response to this, Horn Professor Henry Nguyen indicated that there were none, and that he felt the proposal would be received positively.

Chancellor is to make \$4,000 available for this purpose immediately, to show that Texas Tech is doing something.

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In addition to this Dr. Reckner has requested \$20,000 from the Plum Foundation for scholarships. This money was requested to provide 200 \$100 scholarships. On further discussion, though, it was decided that it would be best for the scholarships to be \$100/year for two successive years, in order to more effectively assist the students thus supported; therefore, this funding will be for 100 2-year scholarships.

Dr. Reckner is to draft a letter for the Chancellor to send to the various universities.

Library Support

There followed a discussion of possible means of support for libraries in Vietnam. Among other things, Dr. Ron Frankum has begun collecting books from throughout the campus and has already assembled about 2,500 volumes for shipment to Vietnam. Dr. Dale Cluff volunteered to provide any books which the Library no longer need, and to coordinate with the Big 12 for additional books. The principal expense involved in this will be the cost of shipping the books to Vietnam.

Chancellor wished to have specific lists of books which could be sent to the various universities for their prior approval before actually shipping the books, in order to avoid sending unwanted books, which would be an unnecessary expense. Dr. Reckner committed to hire another research assistant for the Vietnam Archive to work at producing this list.

There also is considerable interest in Vietnamese libraries to receive current copies of the Library of Congress subject catalogues.

Further, Dr. Reckner reported that Dr. Frankum and Mr. Khanh will be returning to Vietnam before the end of the year to offer a course on library and archival management at Hue, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho. It would be excellent if some of the books we have gathered would by that time already be en route to the universities to be visited.

Medical

Vice President Laible reported that he had already been in contact with the Business School, HOM Program, and they went to do a special study of Vietnam's medical needs. Additionally, concerning medical equipment he has a fair supply of excess equipment, and, as mentioned earlier, an entire medical library, which can be shipped to Vietnam.

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Teaching English in Vietnam

The Chancellor suggested that we establish four or five graduate fellowships, principally for doctoral students, who would thus be supported to go to Vietnam to teach English and study Vietnamese. Estimated cost per student would be \$2,000 for transportation and \$8,000 for salary/expenses. We anticipate that the university hosting the visit would provide accommodations and transportation.

Dr. Reckner is to submit proposal for these fellowships to the Chancellor.

Federal Funding

The Chancellor raised the issue of obtaining federal funding for Vietnam-related projects. Horn Professor Nguyen suggested that Texas Tech should make contact with USAID for funding for his plant genetics project, which has a proposed budget of \$10 million over five years. Additionally, he suggested the US Information Service might be approached for some funding to support English teaching in Vietnam.

After some discussion of the possibility of funding for this and also for projects relating to public health and community health care from World Bank, World Health Organization, etc., the Chancellor indicated that he wanted Cassidy and Associates involved.

Shipment of Materials to Universities and Ministry of Education and Training

Dr. Reckner pointed out that we had committed to send the Ministry of Education & Training materials relating to the costs for overseas students to study at Texas Tech and also to subsist here. Additionally, the Chancellor had indicated he would send information on our distance learning program to the various universities. This has not yet been done.

Dr. Reckner is to locate the information and draft letters for Chancellor Montford.

Game Plan

At the close of the discussion, Chancellor Montford posited the following game plan:

1. **Correspondence.** Reckner to draft letters to the various universities proposing the initial round of scholarships. The four campuses are to get ten each; half to go to general academics and half to medical schools.

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The letters are to be written in the form of proposals in which we make a suggestion and ask for their response/advice.

2. Distribution of Books. The Vietnam Archive is to produce a listing of all books that have been donated for distribution to Vietnamese institutions, including books for medical schools. An additional student assistant is to be hired to perform this task.

3. The Vietnam Archive is to develop an estimate of the cost of shipping these books to Vietnam.

4. Federal Initiatives. Dr. Reckner, working in conjunction with others, will develop a list of federal initiatives and will engage Cassidy & Associates in this. Reckner is scheduled to visit Washington 14-15 September, and should arrange to meet with Cassidy & Associates at that time.

5. Graduate Fellowships. Reckner is to propose these fellowships to the Chancellor. In the Chancellor's opinion, these fellowships will offer huge opportunities for our students to study Vietnamese and do research in Vietnam whilst also providing a service desired by the Vietnamese.

The Chancellor desires these items to be developed and presented to the Vietnamese universities as a package, in order to achieve maximum impact.

Actions Pending:

1. Dr. Henry Nguyen to arrange meeting with Dr. David Schmidly, Dr. John Abernathy and Dr. Reckner to review his biogenetics proposal, with latest possible date Friday, 10 September.
2. Dr. Reckner to prepare letters to Vietnamese universities regarding scholarships.
3. Dr. Frankum to continue collecting books and hire staff to produce listing. Dr. Frankum also to develop budget for shipping costs.
4. Dr. Reckner to draft letter for forwarding information about Texas Tech expenses, distance learning, etc., for Chancellor Montford's signature.
5. Vice President Laible to produce listing of medical equipment available for shipment to Vietnam, and to seek advice concerning which material is desired.

Vietnam Initiatives

6. Dr. Reckner to seek appointment with Cassidy & Associates for Wednesday, 15 September, to brief them on projects for which we will seek federal funding.

7. Dr. Reckner to draft proposal for four or five graduate fellowships to teach English and study Vietnamese in Vietnam.

Additional Notes:

1. **Library of Congress Subject Catalogues.** Chancellor Montford is providing \$5,000 to the Vietnam Center to cover expenses incurred by Mr. Khanh Le during the recent Vietnam trip. The Vietnam Center proposes to spend some of the remaining funds to acquire copies of the Library of Congress subject catalogue for Vietnamese libraries.

2. **Next Trip to Vietnam.** For the next trip to Vietnam, the Chancellor would like to have Dr. Schmidly, Dr. Abernathy, Dr. Kupersmith and probably Dr. Cluff accompany him, along with Mr. Khanh Le and Dr. Reckner from the Vietnam Center. Hopefully, by that time we will have most of the initiatives outlined here at least in more advanced stages of development.