

The following comments are not intended as a press release but rather as information from which press reports might be written.

Since Wednesday, September 5, the Mission from Vietnam has been studying governmental operations of the Philippines. The group headed by Mr. Tran-ngoc Lien, Chargé de Mission at the Presidency of the Republic of Vietnam, with status of a Secretary of State, is chief of the delegation. Included in the group are nine high ranking government officials, three interpreters and four advisers from Michigan State University. The government officials represent both the central and local governments in Vietnam.

The major purpose of the mission is to study inter-governmental relationships in the Philippine Islands. According to Dr. Fox, adviser from the Michigan State University, the group is finding its visit very profitable and will be able to apply in Vietnam many of the principles and techniques which they are learning here.

Before coming to the Philippines, the group spent 12 days of study and observation in Japan.

A list of the members of the Vietnamese Study Mission has been mimeographed and is available to anyone who wishes it.

- 1) What is the role of Michigan State University in Vietnam?

Ans: Our role is purely advisory. Our major purpose is to help in the improvement of governmental administration in Vietnam. Michigan State University has a contract with the Government of Vietnam, somewhat similar to the one which the the Government of the Philippines had with the University of Michigan. We are financed by the International Cooperation Administration of the United States Government

- 2) Then Michigan State University is not the same with the University of Michigan?

Ans: No. They are two distinct institutions. Michigan State University is located at East Lansing and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in Michigan. Both institutions are large state-owned universities.

- 3) How many representatives does Michigan State University have in Saigon?

Ans: Our American personnel is now approximately 24. We shall soon, however, reach a total personnel of 54. In addition to these 54 Americans we have about 130 Vietnamese employees.

- 4) Are all of your American personnel staff members at the University?

Ans: No. We have only nine regular University staff members. Other personnel have been recruited from responsible positions both in government and business.

- 5) What are the programs or functions of Michigan State University in Vietnam?

Ans: We have four main projects. First, we have a police program designed to improve the effectiveness of police administration and techniques; second, we have a field administration program which is working for the betterment of inter-governmental relations and is developing more satisfactory contacts between the government and citizens. Our third program consists of a number of activities centering around the National Institute of Public Administration. This Institute is similar to the one that you have in the Philippines. We emphasize pre-

service and in-service training, research and a number of other functions for improving government administration. We also send participants to the United States for study. Fourth, we have a presidency project, the recommendations of which have already been accepted for the reorganization of the executive office of the President. We are now working on the budget.

6) Why has your group come to the Philippines?

Ans: We have come to study your government with an emphasis on intergovernmental relations.

7) You have already been to Japan:

Ans: Yes. We arrived Wednesday, September 5, after spending 12 days studying various aspects of Japanese government.

8) Is there anything else you would like to say about your work?

Ans: I should like to say that we appreciate the gracious hospitality which we have received in your country and the members of our mission are finding their studies and observations very profitable and applicable to conditions in Vietnam.

1) Will you please tell us why you Vietnamese government officials have come to the Philippines?

Ans: We have come to observe and study governmental operations in the Philippines, our special interest being that of inter-governmental relations. We want to see first-hand how your government is meeting many of the problems with which we are now confronted.

2) Will you tell us something about the composition of your group?

Ans: There are 16 members of our party. Nine of these are government officials. Unfortunately, a 10th member of our group was suddenly called home by telegram from the President in order to attend to urgent business. These government officials represent both the national government and local governments. In addition to the government officials, three interpreters are included in our group. Moreover, we have four advisers from Michigan State University.

3) What is your own position in the Vietnamese Government?

Ans: I am Chargé de Mission in the Office of the President and serve as press secretary to the Chief Executive.

4) Is your group making any studies other than this one in the Philippines?

Ans: Yes. We have just returned from a 12-day visit to Japan where we studied the government of that country.

5) Are you going to other countries after you have studied the Philippine government?

Ans: No. We are going to return to Vietnam immediately after our study here. Although we must admit that the government of Vietnam seems to be functioning without us, we feel that we can't stay away from our work for a longer period.

6) Have you form any impressions yet of the Philippine government?

Ans: Yes. We have been quite favorably impressed by the calibre of the government personnel whom we have met and with the efficiency of the operations of your government.

7) Then you believe that your visit to the Philippines is profitable?

Ans: Indeed we do. We believe that we are gaining much from the experience of the Philippines and that we shall be able to apply in Vietnam many of the forms and principles which we have observed in your government.

8) Is there anything else that you believe will be of interest to our listeners?

Ans: Yes. President Ngo Dinh Diem has specifically requested me to send his greetings and best wishes to the people of the Philippines. Especially in our common fight, as free nations, against the communist menace, our two countries feel a uniting bond. We have the highest admiration for the Filipino people who have set an example in democracy for the peoples of Asia.