

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON - VIETNAM

CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

RECEIVED  
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GENERAL OFFICE: 1ST FLOOR  
26. DUONG GIA-LONG  
(EX LAGRANIERE)

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022-21,526

SCHOOL OF POLICE ADMINISTRATION  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

31 August 1956

The Staff  
School of Police Administration,  
Michigan State University,  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Former and Future Colleagues!

As you may well imagine, the writing of this letter presents certain problems which are not of the type one usually encounters. No doubt, many of you have long wondered whether or not the paucity of correspondence from yours truly may have been the result of a broken right arm, or worse, the complete failure to consider my former associates. Please permit me to advise you that neither of these possibilities exist, and that the only existing reason for having failed to communicate in the past is my having been swallowed up, so to speak, with the Oriental tradition of not getting things done! Writing letters has never been my strong suit; however, I intend to correct this deficiency in the future, and you can expect to hear from me much more frequently henceforth.

From what I have been told by Brother Turner, you are all to be congratulated on the manner in which the Department has progressed since my absence. The Monthly Bulletin, which Betty recently forwarded to Saigon, was very interesting and highly informative. I must admit that while perusing said Bulletin, a tinge of nostalgia was felt on occasion. I was particularly impressed by the manner in which the activities of the Alpha Phi Sigma were sharply increased under Fred's guidance and I have no doubt whatsoever that this organization will continue to greatly benefit from his leadership. From what I have learned from Ralph, as well as from Betty's letter, I am inclined to believe that I will be required to go through another orientation period upon my eventual return to the banks of the Red Cedar.

The situation here, with respect to our Program, continues to improve daily. Our relations with the Vietnamese are becoming increasingly close and I am firmly convinced that they have at last recognized to what extent our Police Team may be of value to them. At the present time, we have several irons in the fire in many directions, and we are of the opinion that the coming few months will prove to be very fruitful. As one continues to work with these people, one continues to be amazed at the work which they are able to do under conditions which would shock the average American law enforcement officer. In spite of the presence of the Michigan State University Team here for a year, one must honestly say that we have but scratched the surface. For example, in none of the law enforcement agencies does

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there exist a Manual of Rules and Regulations. This item will soon rank high on our agenda and, as you can imagine, will entail considerable work and an outstanding sales job, insofar as its acceptance will be concerned. The general law enforcement reorganization plan which we developed as a group here in February and March last, has not, as yet, been accepted by the Vietnamese hierarchy. The result is that consideration concerning the possible reorganization of one or two of these agencies is being greatly impeded.

The recent addition to our staff of competent stenographic personnel has made it possible for us to do a far better job in handling our reporting responsibilities. This business of longhanding or of typing reports ourselves is one which I have also accepted ad nauseam. Furthermore, a study of the existing contract fails to develop any mention of this type of activity on the part of staff personnel!

Ralph's visit and efforts in connection with this program have been of great value to all of us. His smiling countenance and his constant good nature and wit have been a source of great pleasure to me personally, and I can assure you that he shall be missed by yours truly for sometime to come. However, as I cautioned Betty in a recent letter, I am inclined to believe that some of the stories that he may well relate following his return to the campus should be taken with a good measure of salt. It was only yesterday, two days prior to his departure, that Ralph suddenly found himself doing the "Saigon two-step"! I wish to point out that this was the result of an evening in which Ralph apparently amused himself, while I was unavailable to supervise his activities! It was only until Ralph had been here a short time that I became aware of the fact that the Department at MSU had among its members a real "hepcat"! I am sure that it is with great anticipation in his heart that he returns to his former haunts around East Lansing, so that he may again appreciate the syncopated downbeats at the "Coral Gables" and "Monty's".

We are all in fair physical condition, with the exception of Boudrias, who is currently over at Clarke Field Military Hospital, suffering from reported kidney stones, and Dick Rogers, who is still having ear trouble. Many of our staff members recently arranged their return trip itineraries with Jim Miller, of the College Travel Bureau, and are already feeling anxious while awaiting their departures from Saigon.

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I recall that Sandy Shoults asked me to look over the situation in Phnom Penh in terms of whether or not it could be considered a suitable place in which to live. On the basis of a trip which I made there last February, I can report to him that Phnom Penh is actually somewhat like Saigon on a much smaller basis. However, you may be interested to know, Sandy, that the continually changing political situation in Cambodia has made the job of Police Advisor there most difficult. There have been occasions upon which the Cambodian Government has assumed a very definite anti-American and pro-Communist complexion. However, I am sure that had you accepted the job up there, Sandy, that your blonde hair would have soon turned a solid grey, or even possibly have fallen out by now!

Fred, I should like you to accept my most belated and still heartfelt congratulations on your latest addition to your family. Also, please extend my heartiest congratulations to Lucille. Someday, if the spirit should happen to move you, I would be most happy to receive a photograph of you and your family together. If you should happen to find time, Fred, I would like very much to hear of some of the latest occurrences and changes in personnel in the Bureau office. Would you ask Betty to mail me a copy of the names and addresses of the Field Trainers, inasmuch as I have apparently mislaid those which I had brought out here with me.

Al, I should also like to congratulate you upon having received your doctorate at Southern Cal - and I am sure that the long hours and work and study in this regard will always prove to be of great benefit to you. They tell me that, as a result, you are now writing your lectures in Latin - is this true?

Marsh, Harold and Jim, I extend to you my best regards and wishes and I sincerely hope that you and your families, as well as all of the departmental families, are in good health and spirits. If worse comes to worse, we may be able to send a few police officers from here to the schools being held at MSU and we could even work out, I am sure, a very interesting field training program or two here. But, as I am sure you are aware, such possibilities are beyond the pale at the present time.

Rather than taking up your time with countless details and anecdotes regarding life in Saigon and Southeast Asia at this time, it would perhaps be better and more simple for you to await Ralph's return, at which time he will be able to describe these to you in his own scientific and inimitable style.

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Wishing you all the best and continued success, I remain,

Your Lost Colleague -

JER/mmd

JACK E. RYAN,  
Police Program Division