

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

September 5, 1968

To: Ralph H. Smuckler, Chief Advisor
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Coordinator
Subject: Police Program Directive

I have been in close discussion with President Hannah, Deans Seelye and Taggart and Art Brandstatter in regard to the future of the police program. The University desires to retain its involvement in the police program in Saigon. MSU has a specialized competence beneficial, we believe, to the U.S. technical assistance program. Furthermore, MSU has a long-range interest in continuing its support because of its plans to develop its on-campus international police curriculum. However, to make its contribution in Vietnam an optimum one the University's role must be more narrowly defined than at present.

MSU must withdraw from those action-oriented aspects of the police program, e.g. the administration of U.S. aid equipment, the work of Art's friends, etc. MSU's efforts have to be concentrated in those educational and advisory activities that will represent an extension of the School of Police Administration's on-campus program. These will include training, research, reorganizational work, and such specialized fields as radio communications, traffic, etc. Only by doing this can East Lansing provide substantive guidance and thereby make the University's involvement meaningful.

Further, the present nature of the police program has subjected MSU to criticism. An educationally-oriented program in Saigon enriches the experience of MSU staff in a manner that enhances the on-campus program. Action-oriented and economic aid operations do not optimally draw on the University's competence nor accrue to it the academic enrichment and prestige it should obtain.

A meaningful and operationally-feasible division of effort along these lines can and must be made with USOM. The lines are clear. We urge this because of the University's strong desire to provide maximum support to the U.S. technical assistance program in Vietnam.

SKS:jb
cc: President Hannah
Dean Taggart
Dean Seelye
Professor Brandstatter

14-ELL-42

September 5, 1958

To: Ralph H. Smuckler, Chief Advisor
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Coordinator
Subject: Police Program (CNN #5)
Re: Your Memo of August 21

I have already written of my conversation with Art Brandstatter regarding your August 21st memo. I have still not had an opportunity to visit with Dean Seelye. He has been on vacation and his forthcoming visit to Brazil may preclude such an early discussion; however, I will make every attempt to see him before his departure.

Dean Taggart returned to campus yesterday and I was able to go over your memo with him. To the greater extent his position reflects that which I have already outlined to you as a result of my discussion with Art. The directive of August 21 stating the University's position is your guide line for negotiations. If the on-campus international police program is to develop, the continued involvement in Saigon is essential. With the present planning for providing more MSU staff the University has much to gain by not letting USON "absorb the entire police activity."

On the other hand, we recognize the kind of pressures on you in the negotiations; these are pressures for which we do not have sufficient background and information to evaluate. If, as you say, an MSU withdrawal from this activity is indeed "probable" you should keep us informed as closely as possible by cable should you need a decision from this end. The concerned parties on campus, Deans Seelye and Taggart, Art Brandstatter and myself, will continue to think about the problem and will be prepared to supply an immediate final answer should the need arise. In the meantime I hope it does not, and you should continue to press for the kind of MSU involvement outlined in my August 21 directive. Rest assured that, as Dr. Hamm has already said, your recommendation in this matter will be supported.

SES:ddk
cc: A. L. Seelye
G. L. Taggart
A. F. Brandstatter

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

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GENERAL OFFICE:
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TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022-21.528
 SAIGON: 383-384

September 6, 1958

TO: Coordinator
 FROM: Chief Advisor



SUBJECT: The Possible Visit of Theo Hall

Theo Hall will be in Southeast Asia some time in November for some police meetings. It appears that he may be requested to come even earlier in order to play a major role in straightening out the staffing pattern and general police program for USOM. I mentioned this before when it was less of a certainty than it is now.

It may be that Theo Hall will not want to come or will be unable to make the trip before November; but in any case I suggest that you be alert to the possibility and try to have Art Brandstatter and Dean Taggart talk to him about our University policy with regards to the police program before he comes out here.

This doesn't mean we will be sitting still until he arrives, but I do feel that Barrows will be putting heavy reliance on Hall's visit. Once again let me say that you may know about this before anybody at ICA does. Therefore, go slow and perhaps wait a few days before contacting Mac Salter or any others about it.

RHS/dcm

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October 2, 1958

To: Ralph H. Bisselker

From: Stanley L. Sheinbaum

Subject: Discussion with Thao Hall last Wednesday, September 24.

While in Washington, I spent about an hour with Thao Hall discussing the police program and its future. He seemed most anxious to get down to the specifics of the demarcation by the MEUS role and USOM role assuming the operation would be split. I strongly felt that such a discussion involving the exact lines of responsibility were sterile and fruitless in Washington. However, I was a little concerned when each time I mentioned something about our role with the municipal police, or with radio communications, or with VBL, etc, he made certain that his secretary jot down that information. Because I wanted to be absolutely certain that he does not use my remarks as leverage of any sort in his negotiations with you or Barrow, I have sent him the letter, a copy of which is attached.

Aside from this one concern, I was pleased with the meeting. He seems to accept the idea of the split operation almost as a fait accompli. I, as gently as possible, urged him to retain an open mind on the subject until he got to Saigon.

SLB/seg

Attachment

JKS

October 3, 1958

Mr. Thee E. Hall, Chief
Public Safety Division
ICA
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

I enjoyed very much the opportunity of visiting with you and Colonel Kimberling again. To repeat my comments, there has been no significant change in the University's position from what was generally reflected in the cable to Saigon, a copy of which you sent me in your June 23 letter. The University, as you know, is planning to develop its on campus international police program. We feel that not only can this program be enhanced by the continuation of our involvement in Saigon, but also that we can make an optimum contribution to the police work of ICA if we more narrowly define our role to reflect the curriculum of the School of Police Administration. The definition of the exact lines of demarcation vis-a-vis USOM's role can not, of course, be determined at this end. For this reason alone, it is good that you will be on the scene soon to get first-hand information and to assist in that demarcation.

President Hannah has authorized Ralph Smuckler, MSUG Chief Advisor, to work out these arrangement with Mr. Barrows within the framework of what I have described as the University's position. While I am able to state that position, I could not presume to be in possession of sufficient background and information to authoritatively discuss the lines of demarcation. On the other hand, Dr. Smuckler does pass on to me his general thinking; my remarks as to specifics really only reflect his thinking in the field.

If, before you depart, I learn anything new that will be useful to you, I shall certainly communicate it to you. I strongly hope that your presence in Saigon will precipitate a final decision.

Sincerely,

Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Coordinator

SKS/aeg

cc: Ralph Smuckler
Art Brandstatter

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT - OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

October 2, 1958

TO: Ralph H. Smuckler
FROM: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
SUBJECT: Hoyt's September 16 Letter to Turner

I have discussed with Art Brandstatter, Ralph Turner's role with the Project, and Art tells me that he has already brought Ralph into the plans to have Ralph take over for Jack Ryan upon the latter's departure. Hoyt's letter was passed on to Turner immediately.

Art is somewhat concerned, and I think justifiably, by the second paragraph of Howard's letter. Art feels that Hoyt is trying to pin on him the decision to phase down the program. This would be unfair to Art and could cause some future problems for him.

As you know, President Hannah has stated that the final decision belonged to the Chief Advisor. In East Lansing we have attempted to give you general guide lines for your negotiations, and our decisions were based primarily on information received from yourself. There has been general agreement that the police program be phased down. If you will recall, Art would only give his final concurrence when he knew that Hoyt and Ryan in the field were in agreement. That was the reason for Art's cable request in June asking the Hoyt-Ryan position before concurring himself with your June 5 memorandum.

In other words, while East Lansing continues to think about and does take positions regarding the future of the program, we would not make any decisions that are contrary to positions held in the field. Only in an extreme case, would East Lansing override a field decision.

SKS:ddk

cc: Brandstatter
 Seelye
 Taggart

SKS
Casey

October 17, 1958

To: Ralph H. Smuckler
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Discussion with Turner and Brandstatter

I had a long session with Ralph and Art on Wednesday morning. It proved very fruitful in that we discussed procedures for recruiting. We also discussed Ralph's forthcoming role with the Project.

Ralph's present plans are to leave here in June - to arrive in Saigon early August at the latest. Although Ralph will not be taking the reins at first, it would be best if Hoyt can remain in Saigon long enough to provide some overlap between.

It was reiterated and concurred by all parties that Ryan is expected to return to the campus faculty by winter quarter, 1960. The recruitment problem is one that we must start thinking about, starting now. This has to be done, even though certain major decisions have not yet been made. As you know, these decisions conceivably could be delayed too long to permit an efficient recruitment program and a well-planned turn over of personnel next summer. It is almost pointless for Brandstatter to think in terms of what regular MSU faculty are available when he does not yet know what specialties will be required. I suggest, therefore, that you and Hoyt and Ryan work out a statement of needs as you think will be required. On this basis, we will be able to begin tentative feelers for both MSU staff and non MSU staff. It will provide a point of departure for obtaining some sense of personnel availabilities. Turner will have equal responsibility and voice in the decisions made. The luke warm reaction to Strecker, Shoultz, Shields will be reevaluated upon obtaining your tentative statement of personnel needs.

I hope Theo Hall's visit will precipitate all the necessary decisions to proceed with the contract. However, I urge you not to wait until that time for the statement.

SKS/aeg

PERSONAL

October 31, 1958

To: Ralph H. Smuckler
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Police

Because of a feeling that perhaps we are being too passive on the police issue, I had a long discussion with Glen. While nothing new may be added by this memo, I thought it might be worth the time to express some thoughts aloud. In a sense, this is precipitated by a conversation with Milt Esman in Washington. As outlined, in another memo, that conversation was unpleasant, and the remark I am about to repeat should be considered in the context of the overall conversation. He seemed to be deliberately making statements in order to draw me out as much as possible.

In regard to the police program, he opened by asking if the University had given any thought to the planning for the police program under the new contract. I expressed surprise and told him that I had assumed that Smuckler had kept him up-to-date on the thinking. Well, yes, he said, he had had discussions with you and knew more or less how we were thinking, but were we really aware how bitter Howard Hoyt is about the decision to phase down? I did not want to get involved in a discussion with Esman on the basis of his evaluation of Hoyt's position; I told him that while differing views were inevitable on this kind of an issue, the decision had been made with the concurrence of everyone involved. The University knows its qualifications and wishes to use its competence to make an optimum contribution, etc. At any rate, Esman's jobs are not my concern here.

As you should well know, we (Glen and myself) feel that the police program can make a contribution if it is confined to an educational role. However, there are serious doubts as to whether we really can effectuate such a role for that part of the contract; this is something you are going to have to continue to provide guidance on. As has been often said before, we have little more to offer the police program at this point than a recruiting function. Further, as I have already told you, if the choice is finally to be not a group of "about eight", but between a phasing out or a continuation at the present level, it should be toward the phasing out alternative.

One of the reasons I brought the issue up with Glen is conceivably, I could work more actively toward a decision here to phase out. I think you can see the kinds of problems at hand, but I believe it could be done with the

Ralph H. Smuckler

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October 31, 1958

necessary delicacy. In one sense, I have already laid some of the groundwork by clearly emphasizing the authority that you have been given by President Hannah. (This has been articulated several times now: once in the memo on Brandstatter's reaction to Hoyt's letter and in my letter to Theo Hall. In the former case, Brandstatter wanted it made clear, if for other reasons, that the decisions were to the greater extent not his responsibility. In the latter case, I was merely indirectly reaffirming your authority.)

At this point, I do not know what your decision would be if you had to make a choice between phasing out, phasing down, or continuing at the same level. I can make an assumption, but I am reluctant to take action on the basis of an assumption, and thus my "passive" role.

One of the specific things about which I am concerned in the long run effect of three people Art proposed. Assuming that they are not the best choices for the staff in Saigon, we have to ask ourselves where we are. Brandstatter has committed himself to at least providing two or three people for Saigon. If, we can't use those people he proposes, he will have done all that he could, and we may find ourselves again with only one regular MSU staff members on the police team. If this is to be the case, then I suggest that we actually reevaluate the position reflected in my August 21 directive. In light of this, I urge you to give quick consideration to Turner's and my recent requests for a statement of personnel needs in order to know what the School of Police Administration can provide. If, in fact, it turns out to be only Turner, we are posed with a very real question.

I know that Theo Hall is due on the scene in about two weeks. There is not much time for much communication before then. In the meantime, however, you may want to react to this memo.

SKS/aeg