

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS : MSU-USOM
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SAIGON — VIETNAM

CABLE ADDRESS : MICHGOVBUR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADVISOR

GENERAL OFFICE :
137, DUONG PASTEUR

TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.528
21.891-21.991

March 18, 1959

TO: Coordinator
FROM: Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Police Plan



In a meeting this morning with Secretary of State for Interior Lam Le Trinh, we got into the specifics of the police plan. He has given our plan a thorough study and consulted with his police people.

In our plan we proposed nine positions for the first year. He agrees with the total figure but asks that we allocate them somewhat differently. Actually, his allocation and ours are pretty much the same, except that he is breaking down the research and training and Surete categories whereas we put two positions in each. In research and training he would like one, and in VBI (Surete) he would like one. He would add one in crime laboratory and one in records and identification. He would like one in municipal police, one Chief of the Division, and two in communications, in addition to the secretary. This gives a total of nine. I see no reason therefore to change any of our recruitment plans, and we can go ahead as we discussed the matter in Saigon.

For the second period, that is after June 1960, he visualizes a reduction to six instead of seven, and in the period after June 1961 he is talking in terms of two instead of three. He agrees that these totals for the latter periods should not be firmed up at the present moment.

He will be sending me a letter in the near future confirming these views.

As for the traffic position, in his opinion, the position is not necessary, especially since the Government will not be able to get going on its highway police for some time. On the other hand, in our discussion we pointed out that the traffic expert is now working with about four or five different Government offices. He does not want to make a decision on this job, therefore, until he has been able to consult with the other people with whom Franklin works. The position is still up in the air, in other words. Thuan has given his approval, Trinh says no, and I guess the answer is we will have to wait and see what comes of this during the next few days.

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TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.528
21.891-21.991

March 28, 1959

TO: Coordinator *RH*

FROM: Chief Advisor

SUBJECT: Police Communications Project

While Howard Hoyt was in Korea, the police communications project came to a head, and we moved along toward decisions without having the benefit of information from Korea. I have not had a chance as yet to go into the details of Howard's findings in Korea and Taiwan, but preliminary conversations indicate that he discovered nothing that would change the trend of our thinking here.

The trend of our thinking at the present moment is to move along with a somewhat reduced police communications project and continue to have Rundlett and Hemmye responsible for it. While Howard was gone, we had several meetings with USOM--primarily with McCauley's people--and reviewed the program in some detail. The PTT will be developing a communications network for commercial purposes under the USOM aid program, and we wanted to be sure that our police network was not duplicating the expenses of the PTT project. We discovered a certain amount of overlap, and we reduced our project accordingly by about \$450,000. In the process of the meetings, I became reconvincing that our two people are the best technical people on radio communications in Vietnam. They handled themselves well, answered effectively every question that was given to them, and really indicated that they knew their project. Jack Ryan, who was acting in Howard's absence, also appears to have been convinced and feels confident that Rundlett and Hemmye can carry this through successfully.

USOM will be bringing out a communications man, and we can get him involved in the specifications writing. In this way, we will be able to protect ourselves against any charges relating to Rundlett's previous Motorola employment. After June 1959, we will be pretty much out of the commodity business and largely involved in training and general implementation. I do not think that any personnel changes should be planned. The problem that we discussed while you were here seems to



have straightened itself out, and unless Howard Hoyt comes up with some findings which he did not indicate in our preliminary talks, we will go ahead as we are.

RHS/dcm

April 6, 1959

P E R S O N A L

To: Ralph H. Smuckler
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Re Visit with Theo Hall

During my stay in Washington for the ASPA meetings I spent a profitable hour and one-half with Theo Hall at ICA/W. Hall is having his own "ICA" problem in that he cannot make commitments to potential staff for the police division in Saigon until ICA Personnel establishes the positions. This is a cumbersome process and is serving to unnerve Hall. Nevertheless, he has a number of people very interested. He mentioned Buck Fruit and the LA Deputy Chief, Walton. They are as definitely committed as is possible with the above kind of contingency. Hall does feel optimistic and thinks that at least these two can be in Saigon by June or July. (He wants both names kept confidential.) When Walton is in Washington, Turner and I will spend a couple of days with him. It may even be possible for Walton to visit East Lansing for a day or two as well.

Hall has not yet had any specific conversations with any of our police personnel. He wanted to check with me to learn whom we were not retaining; he did not want to "raid" whom we wanted. Updike is the only one he might consider for Saigon. Hall does seem aware of our kinds of problems involved in shifting a person from one organization to another within the same country; I hope he considers this concern carefully. He is, however, also aware of MSUG's reservations about Updike.

SKS/aeg

cc: Brandstatter

SFS Copy

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

Vietnam Project - Office of Coordinator

PERSONAL

April 23, 1959

TO: Ralph H. Smuckler
FROM: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
SUBJECT: Gardiner and the USOM Police Staff

Just prior to Arthur Gardiner's visit, I had learned from Theo Hall that the Los Angeles deputy who was lined up as USOM Police Chief was almost definitely disqualified because of medical reasons. Theo was quite discouraged about this inasmuch as implicitly it precludes proper staffing by July 1 as well as confuses the recruitment picture for the rest of the USOM staff.

The subject was uppermost in Arthur Gardiner's mind when he arrived on campus; he had just had a session with Theo the day before. Together with Ralph Turner and Glen Taggart we discussed the implications and the possible steps that could be taken to minimize the problem for USOM. Several alternatives were suggested; most of them involved an extension of our responsibility for another six months or so. However, we were pretty firm in making it clear that were we to commit ourselves thusly; we must be out of that part of the picture by December 31. In other words, we wouldn't want to find ourselves involved in a lingering problem and then continuing in a way that would negate our earlier decision to phase down. One of the possibilities discussed was that Theo Hall himself should become the USOM Chief. I know that Theo would like some field work, but Gardiner reported that ICA/W wanted him in Washington for at least another year. He speculated that perhaps if MSU could remain involved for another six months, ICA/W would be ready to compromise and release Hall for Saigon in time to take over by the first of the year.

The nature of the MSU involvement was speculated upon and several alternatives were discussed:

1. Hall could proceed with recruitment for the rest of the staff who would go out as USOM personnel but would be responsible to MSUG until such time as a USOM Chief were located, possibly Hall.

2. A competent person could go out for USOM for a six month period, assuming, of course, that such a person could be found. The possibility that Art Brandstatter might be that person was also suggested. In his case, we played with the alternatives of bringing him out as a USOM person or a MSUG person. The possibility has an appeal for Art, but this would require a selling job to Dean Seelye (not so difficult, I believe) and President Hannah (much more difficult).

3. That one of the potential recruits for the USOM staff be designated Acting Chief until such time as a permanent Chief could arrive in Saigon. This would present an obvious personnel problem to USOM. However, were this alternative the choice, it would relieve MSU of responsibility as per present plans.

4. It was suggested that possibly Howard Hoyt stay on for six months or so on the USOM staff.

5. It was also suggested that Updike remain in Saigon for several additional months to provide some useful information and background to the new staff. (Actually this suggestion would be relevant even without Hall's recruitment problem.)

Let me emphasize that all of these were alternatives that arose during the half-hour session without any attempt to arrive at a final solution. In the concrete, we would commit ourselves to the 6-month period only if absolutely necessary and on the condition that ICA would be ready to relieve us sometime during that period. No doubt Gardiner will further discuss all this with you. I would not at this stage bring it up with Hoyt or anyone else.

SKS/aeg

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April 23, 1959

TO: Coordinator *RHS*
FROM: Chief Advisor
SUBJECT: Jerry Franklin

I received word yesterday afternoon from Mr. Thuan that the MSU work in traffic engineering will not be needed under the new contract period. This means that I will notify Jerry and give him the bad news. It all comes as a surprise, since just the day before we had word from the Minister of Interior giving the opposite impression. The explanation given by Mr. Thuan is that the traffic situation is being revised; therefore, Mr. Franklin's services will no longer be needed.

This will cut our staff down to 29, and will call for some slight budget revisions accordingly.

I intend to wait until the end of this week before sending a letter to Jerry. He cannot be reached until May 1 in any case, and I still have a slight hope that after talking it over with Mr. Thuan that I will have a clearer picture--if not a reversal.

RHS:co



C O P Y

May 12, 1959

Taken from Personnel Replacement Memorandum #90 of May 4, 1959 from SL-49

Coordinator / Chief Advisor

5. Police Staffing. We may turn out to be slightly overstaffed one year from now in the police field. Charlie Sloane is the only one scheduled to return by mid-1960. Two people should be phased out by then if we are to live within the agreements we have reached. Many things can happen between now and mid-1960, so I am not too concerned about that but it would be well to discuss this with Ralph Turner so that he can be aware of a possible problem and think about its solution. By mid-1960 the Government may want us to have an additional person, or one of the people coming out may turn out to be a short-terminer.

I will meet with Gardiner this afternoon and discuss with him some of the points made in your April 23 personal memorandum to me concerning police staffing.

As far as keeping Updike on our staff beyond his current termination date is concerned, you know that we had considered this at one time. For several reasons, it would probably be best to have Updike's appointment terminated as scheduled. We will consider this again, however, and give the question a full airing before deciding one way or another.

RHS/dcm

aeg

May 13, 1959

To: Ralph H. Smuckler
From: Stanley K. Sheinbaum
Subject: Police Staffing Re Your PRM#90.

The implication that one of the people coming out now may turn out to be a short-terminer can be somewhat unnerving at this stage of the game. Shields has rented his house for two years - Strecher has sold his. My arrangements with them were for two years; my request with ICA for them was for two years. If there is any change in these considerations we should know about it soon. Turner and I are going to be in Washington to see Theo Hall on or about May 24. We will suggest the possibility to him of shifting one MSUG staff member to the Civil Guard or other USOM activity in the police field. At any rate, we cannot without serious disruption talk to these people in the terms of one year at this stage. *at the end of FY 60*

We were in no way attempting to urge you to continue Updike from this end. This would be a decision for you to make in concurrence with Gardiner and other relevant persons.

SKS/aeg

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TELEPH. NUMBER : 22.022-21.528
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June 1, 1959

TO: Coordinator
FROM: Chief Advisor 
SUBJECT: Civil Guard and USOM PSD



The Civil Guard PRO AG is now signed! I expect Arthur Gardiner to try to get Buck Fruit to Saigon to temporarily head up the Public Safety Division at USOM. There is a good chance that the new division will be in operation by mid-July, and several people from our special Surete section will transfer, I expect, by the end of July.

RHS/dcm

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