

June 15, 1957

Office of Chief Advisor (Viet-Nam Project)

TO: Mr. Stanley K. Sheinbaum, Acting Coordinator  
FROM: Dr. Wesley R. Fishel, Chief Advisor  
SUBJECT: Brown memo to Humphrey, April 9, 1957

We were rather surprised at the statements in Dr. Francis J. Brown's memorandum to Mr. Richard Humphrey. Perhaps because of the short period he was able to spend here Dr. Brown did not obtain a clear picture of our activities.

For example, even after talking to representatives of the Michigan State University Group for approximately three hours, and after having visited the National Institute of Administration and meeting with its Deputy Director, Dr. Brown had the misconception that the Institute was a school for business administration rather than public administration. Also, he seemed unaware that Michigan State was carrying out a public administration project in Viet Nam.

Moreover, Dr. Brown refers to a program "being carried on by the Army" to teach English. He adds that also the "Army School" will shortly construct a new building and plans "to conduct motion pictures, lectures, social hours, etc., all of which are the services available through USIS." Obviously, from Dr. Brown's description he is referring not to an Army school but to the Vietnamese-American Association, which is a USIS undertaking and has no relation to the Army except that it teaches English to members of the Vietnamese armed forces.

The main burden of Dr. Brown's comments is that USIS, USOM, and MSU are not achieving sufficient coordination as regards their participant programs. The agencies are located in separate buildings and are carrying on their own programs, but the statements that we are "entirely independent" and that there is "very little exchange" of information are inaccurate. From the beginning of the MSUG participant program in 1955, we have maintained very close coordination with the Public Administration Division of USOM which, until recently, has handled the USOM participant program. (At present the Public Administration Advisor of USOM maintains an office in the MSUG office building.) USOM has, for the past two years, processed all of the papers for the MSU participant candidates, has reviewed the list to see if our candidates have made

application for USOM programs, and has forwarded all documents concerning selection and approval of MSU candidates to ICA/W. Major policies relating to the MSUG participant program have always been brought to the attention of the Public Administration Advisor, USOM, and frequently to the Director of USOM himself.

Prior to the latter months of 1956, MSUG representatives held discussions on participant matters with Mr. Picknell, acting Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy. Relations with the Embassy were formalized in November 1956 with the establishment of the Coordination Committee on the Educational Exchange Program under the chairmanship of the new Cultural Affairs Officer. This Committee holds monthly meetings at which representatives of the Embassy, USIS, USOM, Vietnamese-American Association, and MSUG exchange information on their various participant programs and candidates. We believe MSUG has contributed fully and satisfactorily.

Mr. Brown states that "each of the three (agencies) made direct contact with top Vietnamese officials without reference to the other United States agencies with the result that there is actual competition in the procuring of individuals for the exchange programs carried on by each of the three." The Vietnamese Government has requested MSU and other agencies to contact the Director General of Planning on all matters pertaining to foreign study; our procedures are based on this instruction. As for this direct contact with a high official leading to lack of coordination or competition for candidates, exactly the reverse is true. Not only does the Direction of Planning seek to prevent applicants from applying for scholarships from several sources, but MSU has always reviewed its list of candidates with USOM to prevent duplication.

We believe there has been more coordination in the past than Dr. Brown realized, that we have been taking steps over the past six months to improve coordination, and that MSUG has a more than satisfactory record in this regard.