

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
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CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBR  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADVISOR

November 7, 1960

Vietnam  
✓  
GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR  
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21.891 - 21.991

### PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. John A. Hannah, President  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear President Hannah:

Thank you for your letter of October 27 and for the expressions of confidence.

We look forward to your visit to the Vietnam Project in February or March. When you are here you will see the steps being taken toward placing the Project "wholly in educational context," as you have wisely suggested. There has been hearty agreement out here on placing the Vietnam Project in this context. You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that the transfer to USOM of the task of advising the Civil Guard and of advising on the radio communications program, as well as the impending end of our consulting program in public administration, leaves our Project nearly one hundred per cent oriented toward educational activities. At the present time we are engaged in joint studies with the NIA to determine the NIA's future need for assistance and to determine, furthermore, just what kind of an institute it is to be.

Referring to the possibility you mentioned that Wes Fishel may come to Vietnam, it is certainly true that Wes has always had a good relationship with President Diem. I can heartily agree that if Wes does come it will be imperative that he not come under MSU sponsorship but at the request of the President. We shall be waiting to see if anything develops in the way of a visit by Dr. Fishel.

Once again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Lloyd J. Musolf*  
Lloyd J. Musolf  
Chief Advisor

*copy to Fishel*  
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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
President's Office

October 27, 1960

Personal and Confidential

Dear Dr. Musolf:

Your confidential letter was delivered to me some weeks ago. I read it carefully when it first reached my desk and set it aside until after my return from the trip to Nigeria and Egypt. I have now re-read it and discussed its contents with Wesley Fishel.

Naturally I am disturbed by some of the things that are happening in Vietnam, and I would not be forthright if I did not indicate that I am unhappy with the lack of appreciation developed by some of the representatives of the United States in that country for our MSU program there.

I have come to the conclusion that we are discredited by them for reasons that are not very good.

After thinking over the contents of your letter, it seems to me that a useful purpose might be served if Wesley Fishel might have an opportunity to visit with the President of South Vietnam.

On the basis of my visits with Dr. Diem, I am of the opinion that he holds Fishel in very high regard and probably will take advice from him when he would not from any other American. I have suggested to Fishel that if there is a channel of communication open to him that makes it possible for him to suggest to Dr. Diem that if Dr. Diem will request me to permit him to make a trip to South Vietnam at the expense of the South Vietnam government, we will be glad to release Fishel for the time required to make such a trip possible.

I believe that Fishel would be exactly useless if he were sent over as a part of our project. He would be subject to scrutiny by the Embassy and the USOM, and it could well embarrass you and your colleagues.

Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief  
MSU Advisory Group, Vietnam Project  
MSUG, Box 34  
APO 143  
San Francisco, California

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It may very well be that nothing will come of this proposal. However, if Dr. Diem asks me to loan him Mr. Fishel for a reasonable period of time, Michigan State University will grant the request; and in that event he will come to Vietnam as a guest of the government there and will have no responsibilities to report to anyone unless he chooses to do so.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to continue your contacts with the Vice President and any others in the Vietnamese government, and I would urge you to be perfectly frank and forthright with them. If there is any advice or counsel that you can give them that will be useful to them, that will be appropriate.

It is my personal feeling that it would be useful if our MSU project in Vietnam could be worked around so that it was in fact wholly in an educational context. If we can continue to do something useful for the NIA in the field of education or can encourage that operation to become more effective educationally than perhaps it has been in the past, I would like to see that done.

It is not possible to expand on this theme in a letter.

I hear very complimentary reports of you and your work and of the direction you are giving our mission. I hope to be able to visit you next February or March as a part of a trip to our projects in the Far East.

Sincerely,

President

fk  
Air mail