

14 March 1957

Mr. Brent E. Hutton-Williams  
British Information Service  
c/o British Embassy  
Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear Mr. Hutton-Williams:

Mr. Albert Rosenfeld of the Michigan State University Group and I would appreciate any help you might be able to give us in arranging a tour to observe land survey and title procedures in the Federation of Malaya.

As you are aware, a large proportion of the land records in Viet Nam, and especially Central Viet Nam, have been destroyed over the past decade. In a number of other areas where records do exist, they have become out of date and inaccurate. The Vietnamese Government is currently interested in undertaking a program of establishing new land records, which will involve both survey and registration work. To assist them in certain aspects of this program, officials of the Cadastral and Land Registration Services have sought suggestions and recommendations from us.

It is our understanding that much outstanding work in the field of land survey and title registration has been accomplished in recent years in the Federation of Malaya under circumstances which have some parallels in Viet Nam. We would appreciate the cooperation of the relevant officials to enable us to observe what has been done and to learn what experience is available in Malaya which would be helpful to the Government of Viet Nam.

We are also concerned with the problem of improving the technical competence of Vietnamese cadastral personnel through professional training. We wish, therefore, to discuss with Federation authorities the possibility of future study missions to train Vietnamese personnel, should the Federation be willing to receive them and should it appear that such training would be of benefit to the Vietnamese.

Mr. Rosenfeld and I would like to visit the Federation during the first or second week of April. We have tentatively thought that three or four working days in the field with the appropriate officials might be enough to provide us the information we need, although we can spend either more or less time as the Federation officials think best.

In the matter of itineraries, areas to visit, etc., we would appreciate any suggestions you might have to make.

Many thanks for your kind interest and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. P. Gittinger  
Agrarian Reform Specialist