

August 9, 1958

TO: Stanley Sheinbaum
FROM: Robert Scigliano
SUBJECT: Eropa Research Center

The purpose of this memorandum is to fill you in on discussions concerning the Eropa Documentation, Diffusion, and Research Center. You have already received a copy of the program and the work development plan prepared for the Institute. I am presently working on the personnel organization and budget, and a copy of this should be ready for sending in a few days.

The discussions with NIA officials have proceeded extremely well. The initial meeting was between Rector Thong, Mr. Dang, Ralph, John Dorsey, and myself. Since then Mr. Dang and I have been holding frequent meetings. The major obstacle from our point of view came ironically enough from Mr. Dinh, our former participant. He had worked on an organization and program plan for the NIA at the same time I worked on our program plan. At the first meeting it was apparent that the elaborate structure which he proposed was rather unrealistic and that was quickly dropped. However, he maintained his personnel roster which consisted of about 32 persons for the first two years. I think that Mr. Dang is in full agreement after our meetings that the Center should plan for a staff of around 17 persons. These 17 will be engaged gradually over six month periods during the 24 months ahead.

The immediate need for the Center is to establish cooperative arrangements with other member countries and to undertake the building up of the document collection, and this is where we are giving emphasis. We are about to send a letter to the Philippines to obtain an assignment of a full-time librarian and, of course, Gardner, Heyman, and Chapin will all be able to render assistance.

The problem of bringing all states into this will be a complicated one. For one thing, only 11 states, including Vietnam, participated in the Conference at Manila, and not all of them appeared to

be strongly in favor of the establishment of a Research Center. Hence, we do not know how many of the signatory states, let alone the other states in the region, will be participating in the Research organization. In the second place, the establishment of an union card catalog is going to require active cooperation on the part of research institute librarians and other librarians in the participating states. In the third place, the language problem is not going to be easy to overcome. With respect to this third point, we are tentatively planning to have needed materials which appear in non-Vietnamese, non-English transted into English through contracts.

However, we are all optimistic about the way in which things have been going and concerning the impact which the Center will have in this region. Our working relationships with NIA officials have in this instance, as in others recently, been very good.

This work should be a natural for Frank Cliffe when he arrives, and I am eagerly awaiting this event. If he is still in East Lansing, would you please tell him that the material and the letter which he sent have been most helpful to us.

We will keep you informed as this thing develops.

RGS/mt