

Roland Smith, Chief, Finance Division, USOM

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Milton C. Taylor, Tax Advisor, MSUG

Report of Discussion with Mr. Vinh, Acting Director General
of Taxation, and Policy Implications thereof

Today, I had my first discussion with Mr. Vinh in his new capacity as Acting Director General of Taxation. I first asked for and received his authorization for the undertaking of a fifth report on taxation covering excises. Then I brought to his attention the other ways in which I thought that I could be helpful to him in the four months remaining of my tour. I noted three problems: (1) the English language program for employees of the General Directorate of Taxation has been held up for over two months because of a shortage of USOM funds; (2) the participant program developed by Mr. Vinh and myself in the latter part of 1959 has collapsed; and (3) the issue of American aid in taxation after my departure is a possible issue for the Director General of Taxation. Mr. Vinh concurred that he wished to give thought to each one of these questions and suggested that the problem of the English language courses be resolved first.

Mr. Vinh explained to me that the fact that these courses have not started is a source of embarrassment to him. He said that it was difficult for him to explain to his staff that there was a shortage of USOM funds for this particular project when his staff is aware that similar courses are being offered for the Customs Directorate. He believes that the time has arrived when he must inform his staff with certainty as to whether or not the courses will be offered.

Specifically, then, I request USOM to inquire into whether something can be done to resolve the financial problem so that these classes can be started at a very early date and advise me as to the decision. I have promised Mr. Vinh an early decision on this matter. I might add that everything else with respect to these classes has been arranged by myself in conjunction with Mr. Crawford of the VAA.

I am addressing this memorandum to Roland Smith with the understanding that this is a problem falling under his jurisdiction. If I am wrong, please adjust the channels accordingly and accept my apology.

cc: ✓ Lloyd Musolf, Chief Advisor, MSUG
Kal Dienes, Chief, PAD, USOM
James Howe, Chief, Program Division, USOM