

Dorsey  
File

Record of Meeting

Date: October 1st, 1957  
Place: Department of Finances  
Present: Messrs Trần-văn-Pho, Secretary General, Dept. of Finances  
Rosenfeld, Rose, Quăn of MSUG  
Subject: Treasury Survey

Mr. Pho inquired as to the progress of MSUG's survey on the Treasury. He pointed out that the list of questions he had submitted to the Group was his own. He is preparing another list in accordance with the Presidency's instructions of 31 August. He therefore wishes us to wait for the President's approval of the new list before taking any action.

"Should you have finished up your survey on the Treasury", he said, "don't report yet otherwise the Presidency might think I pay only little attention to its directives..."

Mr. Rosenfeld then suggested extending the Treasury Survey to the National Bank and the 2 departments of Agriculture and Information in order to collect on-the-spot-information on the projected process of payment by check, Mr. Pho did not object but was rather reluctant and asked us to follow strictly the Presidency's instructions i.e. wait until the list of questions are approved.

"Officials in the National Bank and the 2 departments", he said, "might well get in touch with you informally, but I fear they could not do it easy..."

However, Mr. Pho accepted the suggestion that Mr. Bửu-Thu Director of Pension and Retirement, contact officially Mr. Rose because of the tight connection of this Directorate with the Treasury.

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Mr. Pho also disclosed some innovations which are taking place in the Department of Finances:

- The new system of tax collection has made use of Lindholm's recommendations on the Budgetary System.
- He has some doubt about the suggested simplified procedure of control over budget operations as even now with so many steps of pre-audit, the Government hardly succeeds in preventing dishonesty.

- He was not as well convinced about the accuracy of the system of payment by check.  
"Even now", he said, "with the limited extension of the system, we are living under the obsession of checks being drawn without sufficient funds to cover them."
- The Government is implementing the MSUG recommendation on savings stamps and bonds on a national scale. Mr. Châu while visiting India has noticed the success of the system in that country. An Indian technician has been hired and will soon arrive in Saigon. Mr. Pho expected more cooperation from MSUG in this area.