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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Howard W. Hoyt *hwh* DATE : 23 March 1957

FROM : Jack E. Ryan *JER*

SUBJECT: Meeting Held with Mr. Vu-Thien-Huan on 22nd March 1957.

The following subject matter was discussed with Mr. Huan and Mr. Do-Van-Ro at the Palace on the above date, in a meeting which was attended by yourself and the writer. Disposition of these matters is also indicated below:

(1) POLICE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION PARTICIPANT PROGRAM:

It was indicated to Mr. Huan that both the Civil Guard and the VBI Directors General had reportedly submitted to the Minister of Interior their selections of those individuals recommended for being sent to the U.S. as part of the Participant Program, which was spelled out at the Institute in February 1957. It was further brought to Mr. Huan's attention that time is of the essence, and that it is now up to the Vietnamese Government to take the necessary steps in making the final approval of the individuals selected, in order that they may begin a condensed training program in the use of the English language.

Mr. Huan recommended that Mr. Hoyt address a letter (4 copies) in which the offer of U.S. aid in terms of a Participant Program be outlined, in terms of the nature and the purpose of the Project. The letter should also include the number of so-called scholarships available. He, further, recommended that the President be asked to require the heads of those Vietnamese police agencies involved to furnish the names of the candidates and their alternates. The letter, according to Mr. Huan, should also indicate that the Participant Program was the object of a conference attended by Mr. Huan, Mr. Ton-That-Tien, Colonel Pham-Xuan-Chieu, a representative of the Civil Guard, and Messrs. David Cole and Howard W. Hoyt, of MSU. This conference was held in February 1957, at the National Institute of Public Administration. It should, also, be indicated that the nature and objectives of the Program, as well as the number of participant openings available, were discussed during this conference. President Diem, also, should be made aware that the initial MSU proposition was modified during the course of the above conference and that proposal embodied in the letter to Diem is in conjunction with said modification, in terms of the needs of each law enforcement service involved. It might, also, be wise to include in said letter a statement as to the earliest departure dates for the participants, as well as some suggestions that this matter be expedited because of the fact that the selectees will be required to undergo an intensive English language program prior to their departures.

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(2) VBI REORGANIZATION:

Mr. Huan was asked as to the status of the reorganization of the VBI. He pointed out that the matter is not a dead issue by any means, and he recommended that Colonel Chieu's recent reorganization plan be studied by the MSU Police Team. Mr. Huan declared that the final MSU recommendations concerning Cheiu's plan should be submitted to him in writing (4 copies). This will enable Mr. Huan to study the Colonel's plan in light of MSU's recommendations, prior to calling a conference with the Colonel, himself. Mr. Huan pointed out that this procedure is recommended, since it will furnish him with the necessary information for bring the matter to the President's official attention.

(3) DALAT POLICE ACADEMY:

Mr. Huan indicated that the Dalat Police Academy, also, is still under consideration by the Vietnamese Government, and that undoubtedly, final decisions concerning this school will be made at the same time as those regarding the reorganization of the VBI.

(4) THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN AID EQUIPMENT:

Mr. Huan requested that an overall program be developed by the MSU Police Administration Division concerning the distribution of American Aid equipment to be received in the future, in terms of procedures and the actual number of units to be distributed among the police services involved. He recommended that this particular plan be in detail and should include such considerations as manpower, responsibilities, geographic jurisdiction, as well as the needs of each service. These recommendations should also be furnished in 4 copies.

(5) GASOLINE SUPPLY AT THE CAMP DES MARES:

Mr. Huan was brought up-to-date concerning the gasoline supply shortages at the Camp des Mares, which, in the recent past, has interfered with certain operations of the VBI. It was pointed out to Mr. Huan that this situation should certainly be worthy of study and correction by the Vietnamese Government. Mr. Huan replied that a considerable number of abuses of the use of official VBI vehicles and gasoline occurred during the period of General Le's leadership. This situation resulted in an extreme dissatisfaction on the part of the President, an inventory of all vehicles at the Camp des Mares, and a much closer control over the distribution of gasoline to the Camp des Mares. In conclusion, Mr. Huan stated that this particular matter could easily be rectified between Colonel Chieu and Mr. Huan.

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(6) VBI TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE CAMP DES MARES:

The glaring need for a training program within the VBI, itself, was again brought to Mr. Huan's attention. It was recommended to him that efforts be made as soon as possible to institute training programs for instructor personnel, as well as administrative personnel, at the Camp des Mares. Mr. Huan gave verbal approval concerning this program, but said he would like the MSU Police Administration Division to furnish him with a letter in which would be included the details concerning the program; also including statements concerning the availability of suitable personnel, adequate space at the Camp des Mares and necessary material aid. Again, this letter should be in 4 copies.

(7) CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Huan's attention was brought to the fact that, at the present time, several law enforcement and military organizations have active intelligence units. It was further indicated that a lack of control and effective cooperation exists between the various organizations, inasmuch as the Vietnamese Government has not yet given the responsibility in this field to any one particular organization. Mr. Huan indicated his agreement with the principles of centralizing such information.

(8) CENTRALIZATION OF ALL CRIMINAL RECORDS:

One of the basic weaknesses of law enforcement in Viet-Nam was pointed out to Mr. Huan; namely, the fact that no centralized criminal records bureau exists in this country. The needs of such a bureau were described to Mr. Huan, and several examples were used in emphasizing the importance of such a bureau. In general, Mr. Huan voiced his agreement with the general principles involved; however, he requested that studies be made of the number of such files in existence in Viet-Nam, the amount of space which would be required to house such files, plus an estimate of future space needs, as these files accumulate over the years. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed with Colonel Chieu for study and consideration. Final recommendations will be submitted by Colonel Chieu to Mr. Huan.

The writer requested Mr. Huan to set aside an hour or two per week for regular meeting purposes. Mr. Huan stated that such scheduled meetings would not be necessary, and he suggested that whenever such a meeting was desired, that arrangements be made by telephone directly with him.

JER/mmd

JACK E. RYAN, Deputy Chief
Police Program Division