

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Mr. Mode

DATE : February 5, 1957

FROM : Nguyêñ-Quân

SUBJECT : Suggested Plan For Reform on the Organization of the Education Department

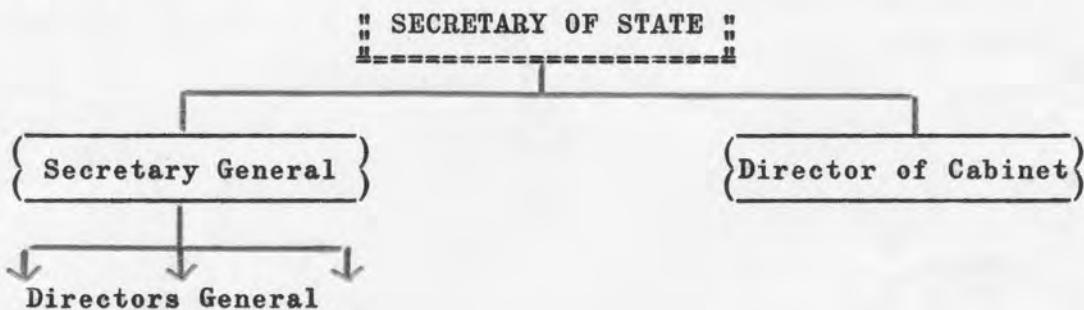
These are my comments:

1. In principle, the internal organization of a Department only concerns the respective Secretary of State. In fact it used to be that each newly appointed Secretary of State issued a decision providing for "adjustment" of the personnel and the functions of his team.

However, the suggested plan involves the structural reorganization in the Department. Therefore I should first of all point out that:

- it would require a President's decision
- other department's should have been asked for comment or agreement.

2. The present structural organization of the Department in the Vietnamese Government is roughly an imitation of the French system:

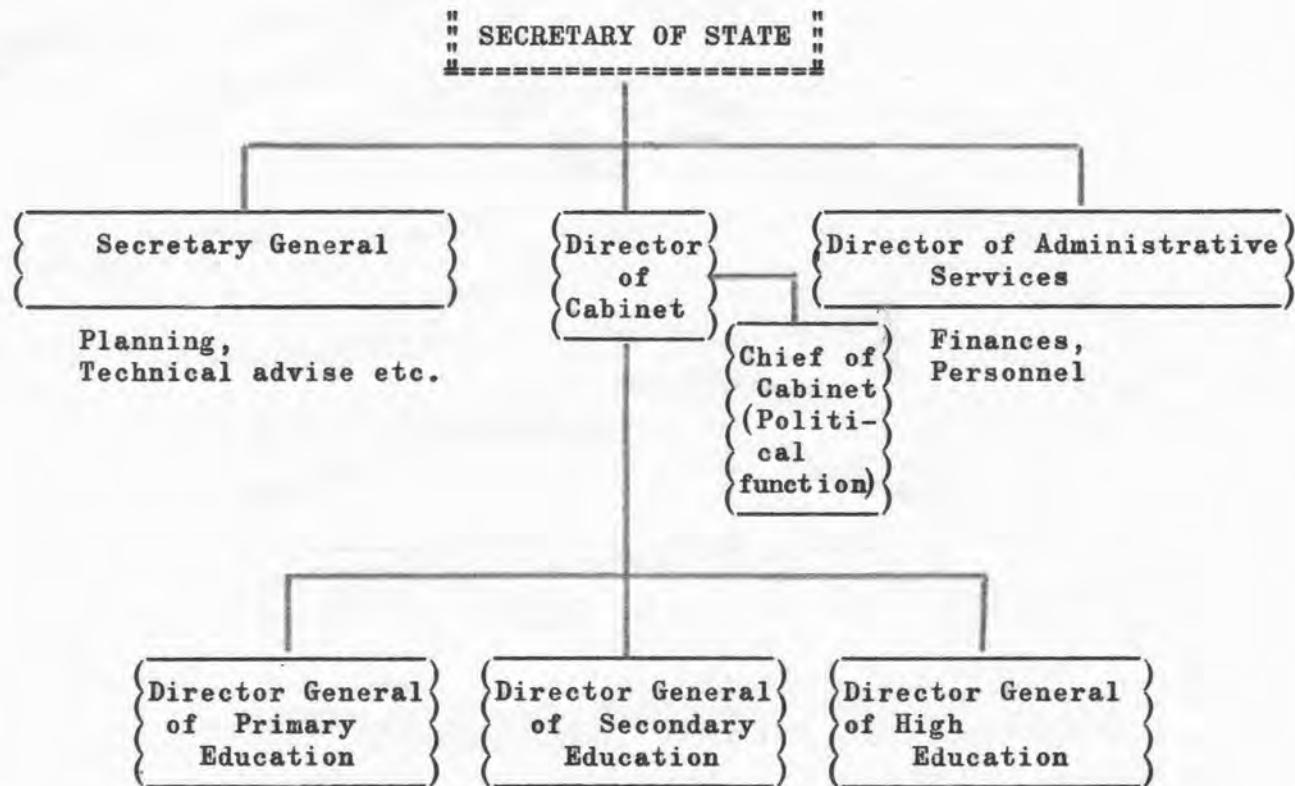


It reflects the lack of stability in the french parliamentary system which needs a permanent element for the continuance of the service: the Secretary General, while the Minister and his Director of Cabinet may change with the Government's reorganization.

So far that organization is more or less matched with the Vietnamese political scene because since 1946 many changes occurred in the various departments. The main objection is that the action

of the Secretary of State remains superficial against the inertia presented by all the Department's services grouped behind the Secretary General. It also minimizes the benefit expected from the appointment of a new and more efficient Secretary of State.

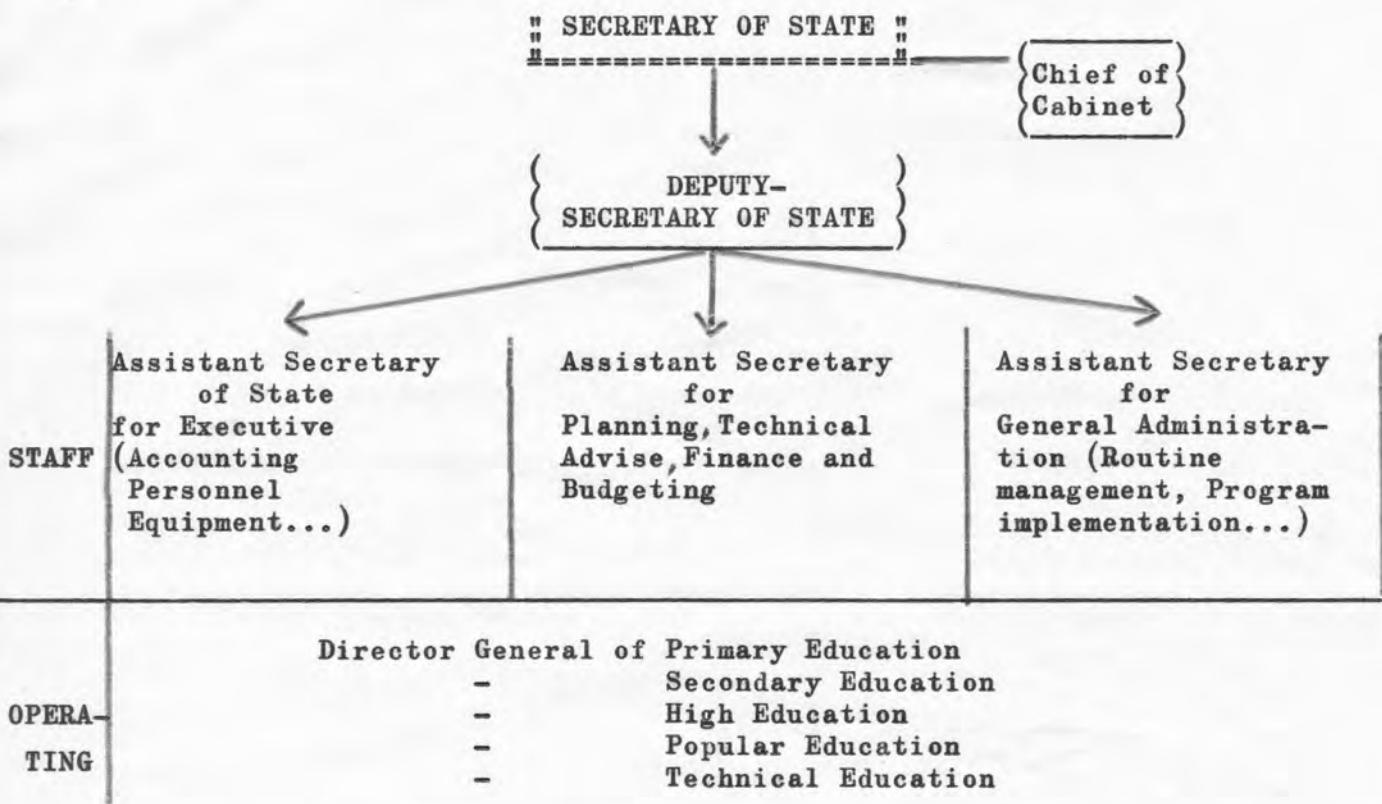
3. The Dôn's suggestion is:



The chart clearly shows that the suggestion aims to strengthen the Secretary of State's action over the operating agencies (Directorates General) by making them directly report to the Director of Cabinet. The suggestion also reduces the Secretary General's position to that of a Department's service.

But what might happen if any change would occur in the Government which would make the Director of Cabinet following the chance of the Secretary of State? The least one could say is that there would be no liaison between the Staff and all the operating agencies.

4. I would like to suggest the following breakdown along the same lines of the U.S.



The Secretary of State and his Deputy (also his Chief of Cabinet) would be political men. For reasons of prestige the Deputy would be also appointed by the President, but on the recommendation of the Secretary of State.

Assistant-Secretaries would be high-ranking career employees. Their assignment to a given Department should, however, be with the concerned Secretary of State's agreement. They will assume the continuance for the Department.

All correspondence from operating agencies will be addressed directly to the Secretary of State. All decisions will also be issued over his name.