

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : PAD/MSUG

DATE: 8 November 1960

FROM : J. Donoghue

SUBJECT: Student Attitudes Toward the NIA

Today in my class I asked the students several questions about the NIA. Their major complaint was that they must attend classes 33 hours per week. They said that they have no time for reading, for the practice of the English language, for study at the VAA, or for social activities. They said that occasionally they go to the library, but that the faculty members take the important text books from the library so that the students are unable to acquire them. For example, in the Economics Section of Promotion 7 there are 12 books on the reading list, but the faculty members have taken out 10 of these, so that only two of them are available. They asked that Michigan State acquire duplicates of the important textbooks in economics and administration. They also complained about the lack of important texts that have been translated into Vietnamese. They would suggest that they attend class about 1/3 as often as they do normally, similar to the system of the University of Saigon. They said that they, and the public in general, feel as though university students have much higher status than students at the NIA. They also complained about over-regimentation. For example, they said: "We sit in seats that are numbered; attendance is compulsory; and we in no way feel or behave like university students." Furthermore, they said: "If we had seminars and electives with less emphasis on large classes and general courses and duplication of courses, we feel that the NIA would be a better Institution."

JD/rbm