

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

January 7, 1960

Leonard Maynard, Acting Chief, PAD

January 7 meeting with Rector Thong, Lloyd Musolf, and Leonard Maynard

1. The Rector brought up the subject of participants. He asked for and received assurances, insofar as can be judged in advance, that Buu Dich is capable of receiving an M.A. in nine months. He was also advised that Phat is now reconciled to remaining in the U.S. until he completes his Ph.D. Xuan, it was agreed, would be returning before he completed his Ph.D. Khanh has not yet forwarded his request for an extension, according to the Rector. Musolf informed the Rector that we had cabled East Lansing asking that all Ph.D. participants submit their requests for extension as soon as possible.

2. The Rector spoke at length about EROPA. He said that at the recent Hong Kong meeting there were delegations from almost all the countries which had attended the preliminary conference. Among the questions considered was the subscription rate for state members. The decision was made that this should amount to \$1125.00 annually. India and Vietnam would not be required to pay this fee since they will be supporting the training and research centers respectively. The agenda for the next conference was also adopted. The theme of the next conference which is scheduled for August, 1960, to be held in Indonesia or the Philippines, is "Problems of Strengthening Local Administration in order to Assist Economic Development." The first topic is to be "The Central Services and Local Government Administration" with Indonesia reporting. Second is "Local Economy" with China reporting. Korea will report on the third topic, "Government Administration and Local Autonomy." Vietnam will coordinate the preparation of reports. By March 15, 1960, it will have distributed questionnaires composed by reporting countries, to all member states. By June 15 it will have collected final reports of each of the reporting countries, and by July 15 Vietnam will have prepared a general report.

Rector Thong at this point asked that MSU be available for assistance in connection with this work. He also said that the research, documentation and diffusion center of EROPA, to be located in Vietnam, will be held responsible for the publication of a journal. He said that articles for the journal will come from many countries but mostly

from Vietnam. The first issue is scheduled for July. The journal will be written in English. In this connection the Rector asked for translation assistance from MSUG.

Musolf asked if personnel for the research center were to be recruited or were to be NIA personnel who would be given an extra assignment. The Rector replied that in view of the generally tight budgetary situation, it would probably be NIA personnel who would staff the research center.

Rector Thong asked if MSUG could financially support the EROPA journal. Musolf replied that he would look into the matter. However, he inferred that while services might be readily available, financial support was not likely. Musolf went on to suggest that the Asia Foundation be solicited for financial aid. Thong responded by saying that he had already talked to Thomas who said that the Asia Foundation would be interested in providing financial assistance as soon as the research center was properly established and recognized.

The question of sources of articles for the journal came up and it was agreed that Maynard would talk to Vice Rector Dang next week with a view to establishing a joint NIA-MSUG committee to develop plans for the EROPA journal.

The Rector said that at the conference Mr. Kim of the Budget Direction, who also represented Vietnam, proposed an EROPA STUDY on problems of receiving and utilizing technical assistance from the viewpoint of recipient countries. This proposal was not accepted by the conference, according to Rector Thong, but Vietnam will consider this subject further and submit a brief statement at the next conference on the feasibility of carrying on such a study.

The Rector announced that Australia and China had stated their adherence to the EROPA situation. This brings the number of state members up to the amount needed to formally establish EROPA.

The Rector also said that a United Nations observer had been present at the conference in order to inquire into the possibility of cooperation between EROPA and the UN organization.

The Rector was congratulated upon his election as Chairman of the Constitutional Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of EROPA.

3. Musolf informed the Rector that Mr. Donahue had been recruited to replace Gerry Hickey. Donahue is now in Japan on a Fulbright grant. He is expected to arrive in Vietnam in February.

4. Rector Thong said that he had received a letter from Dean Seelye and he wondered whether Ruben Austin would be coming out to Vietnam. Musolf replied that this depended upon ICA/Washington. However, he said the prospects were good now that Austin was the Coordinator for the Vietnam Project. Tentatively Austin is scheduled to arrive on January 18. Guy Fox is due to reach Vietnam on January 23.

5. Musolf brought up the long-standing question of the integration of MSUG services into the NIA. As a step forward he suggested that the Library operation, including the salaries of the personnel, be transferred to the NIA budget. He also urged that the transfer of other personnel be considered at the earliest possible moment. The Rector pointed out the Institute's budgetary limitations.

6. Finally, Musolf raised the matter of Mrs. Hue and her request for NIA sponsorship of a Ph.D. participant grant. The Rector pointed out that the Direction of Plan did not approve of Mrs. Hue's continued stay in the United States. It was agreed that neither MSUG nor the Institute had any direct interest in the matter since Mrs. Hue could not be an NIA sponsored participant.