

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

March 17, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Meeting with Rector Thong and Chief Advisor, March 15, 1960

1. Proposed Business Administration School. Musolf explained Ruben Austin's status while in Vietnam. Because of his status he had to be tentative and indefinite in his remarks. Perhaps, said Musolf, the NIA would like to make a correction of its minutes in which a somewhat inaccurate impression is left as to the nature of Austin's visit. Mr. Musolf then summarized Austin's final report. ICA, he said, may not make a decision on a Business Administration School until after this summer's seminars. At least there will be no early decision. Rector Thong expressed the hope that Dr. Austin had obtained a clear view of the situation here and said that he realized that a quick decision could not be forthcoming.

2. Mr. Khanh. Rector Thong said he had received a letter from Mr. Khanh, Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State University. Mr. Khanh had written that he is ill and had expressed concern over the continuance of his studies. Mr. Thong was not sure whether Mr. Khanh had received his Masters degree yet. Mr. Musolf said that he had just received a letter from Mr. Hendry, Acting Coordinator, on the subject of Mr. Khanh. Hendry had said that the professors at MSU seemed to be in agreement that Mr. Khanh should not attempt to obtain the doctorate. Mr. Musolf added that it is not likely that Mr. Khanh has yet received his M.A. but that he will probably obtain the degree soon. Mr. Musolf asked whether the NIA might desire to have Mr. Khanh on the faculty with merely a M.A. degree. Mr. Thong answered that in view of the fact that Mr. Khanh has his license en droit and would shortly return with U.S. training and a Masters degree, his services would probably be desirable. However, Mr. Khanh must submit his application and be approved by the proper NIA committees. Mr. Musolf said that Mr. Khanh should also notify MSUG of his intent to withdraw after receiving his M.A. He then asked Mr. Thong if the processing of Mr. Khanh by the NIA could begin now. Mr. Thong answered that it could but that no action could be taken until after Mr. Khanh submitted his application.

// Mr. Musolf asked Mr. Thong if he believed that the return of present doctoral participants in the U.S. would mean the replacement of many of the present part-time staff. Mr. Thong replied that he believed it preferable to have full-time faculty members.

3. Hung. Mr. Thong says that he finds it somewhat embarrassing and difficult to inform the Directorate of Plan of the decision to drop Hung from consideration as a participant. Mr. Musolf said that he could understand this embarrassment and suggested that MSUG write him (Thong) a letter, assuming blame for the fiasco, and explaining the situation. Mr. Thong suggested that greater care might be given in the future to the examination of the credentials of candidates.

4. Observers from Laos. Since the NIA is bound by presidential rule to receive presidential approval before foreign visitors are given explanations of NIA business, Mr. Thong said he was obliged to refuse to permit Vice Rector Dang to speak with the Laotian visitor and the USOM/Laos representative on curriculum matters last week. If an urgent case should arise the NIA will receive visitors but it cannot furnish information. Mr. Thong requested that several days notice be given in the event MSUG or USOM wishes to bring foreign visitors to the NIA.

5. Quonsets. Mr. Thong said that on a recent visit to the quonsets with Mr. Maynard he had noticed that there seemed to be little of value stored in one of the quonsets which nevertheless was cooled by an air conditioner which functioned day and night. Since such air conditioning is quite expensive Mr. Thong raised the question as to whether or not the air conditioner in this quonset was essential. Mr. Musolf said that he would check with Mr. Maynard at once to see if the quonset contained equipment which has to be air conditioned.

6. Pro Ags. Mr. Musolf said that the TC Pro Ags--which includes the Development of the National Institute of Administration (30-77-080)--should reach the Planning Division of USOM by the end of next week, though there is some possibility for an extension. Fox said that he would try to have copies of a tentative draft in the hands of the NIA Rector and Vice Rector this week and that discussions might begin next week. Musolf and Thong agreed to meet Tuesday at 4:00 for the first NIA-MSUG discussion of the Pro Ag.

cc: Vice Rector Dang