

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

May 5, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Meeting with Rector Thong and Chief Advisor, May 5, 1960

1. Mr. Thuyet. Mr. Thong opened the meeting by saying that it would be necessary to take up the Thuyet case with the President because a Presidential decree has already been issued to send Thuyet to the United States. Mr. Thong said that he would attach Musolf's letter to the communication sent to the Presidency. Mr. Thong then called ^{attention} to a mistake in MSUG's letter regarding Thuyet. The letter is in error, he said, in saying that urgent appeals were made by the NIA to induce the overseas study commission to accept Thuyet as a candidate. As a matter of fact, Thong said, the same procedure was used in Thuyet's case as was used with other candidates. There were no special efforts or letters in Thuyet's behalf. Mr. Musolf said that he would have the letter re-typed both in Vietnamese and English without the offending sentence. The letter would be ready by tomorrow. Except for the one sentence, Mr. Thong said that he agreed with the contents of the letter.

It was agreed by Thong and Musolf that the greatest care should be used in selecting participants. This is borne out, said Musolf, in a recent letter from Fishel who reported on his conversation with Thuan and Thai regarding participants. Fishel said that the President, on the basis of Thai's report, was not satisfied with the caliber of NIA participants now in the U.S. Mr. Thong called attention to the fact that the Director of Planning, in a letter dated February 2, had said that Thuyet had previously been offered a scholarship to the U.S. but had refused at the last moment. The Planning Director added also that he did not believe Thuyet was a serious student. Musolf asked Thong if he agreed with the statement in the letter to the fact that Thuyet had claimed to have his second baccalaureate but as a matter of fact does not. Mr. Thong said that he was not certain that Thuyet had made such a suggestion. Musolf said that we would check on the point and turn in the evidence to Dr. Child. Musolf asked Thong when a decision on Thuyet from the Presidency would be forthcoming. Mr. Thong said that he was not certain but that he would submit a letter to the President immediately. Musolf pointed out that Thuyet is scheduled to leave in June and therefore there is need for haste on the matter.

2. Xuyen. Musolf pointed out that MSUG had received additional information as to why Columbia University believes that Xuyen would be an appropriate Ph.D. participant. Burns, a famous Columbia University professor, has observed Xuyen in a seminar class and has now concluded that Xuyen is the best of all the Vietnamese students he has taught. Musolf said he would send Thong an excerpt from Burns letter.

3. Course in Public Administration. Mr. Thong, who is in charge of the public law courses at the Faculty of Law, says that the Faculty of Law would like to begin a graduate course in public administration during the second half of July. The course would be for 45 hours and the hours could be arranged by the instructor. Mr. Thong asked Musolf if MSU would be able to furnish an instructor for the course. Musolf said that we were highly sympathetic with this worthy need and would do our best to meet it.

4. Pro Ag. Mr. Thong was assured that the corrections which he wished in the Pro Ag would be made.

5. Business Administration Curriculum. Musolf informed Thong that Ruben Austin has been urging ICA to come to a decision regarding a business administration program in Vietnam. It appears, however, that ICA is waiting for USOM/Saigon to report and as late as last week USOM had not sent in a report. Mr. Gardiner, in a recent conversation with Musolf, indicated that he is probably waiting until July before making a decision regarding the business administration school. Mr. Gardiner wants to wait until after a Harvard University professor has conducted a seminar on business administration in Saigon. Musolf said that he had urged Gardiner to make an early decision on the matter, but he doubted that USOM would act until after the seminar.

6. Curriculum. Mr. Thong announced that the new NIA curriculum had been adopted. It is possible, Mr. Thong said, to adapt a special section to business administration.

7. Police Training. Musolf pointed out that the possibility had been discussed in East Lansing of having some police administration training at the NIA. This in no way would preclude the present police schools; rather, the NIA would set up some special courses somewhat equivalent to the ones now given in the evening school, and policemen attending such courses would receive a certificate. Fairly high ranking police officials would take the course. Mr. Thong said that he believed it would be easy for police to attend the present evening certificate program. Musolf said, however, that the police want their own courses especially designed for police work. Musolf said that as soon as he received more information regarding the kinds of courses desired, he would let Mr. Thong know. Perhaps, Musolf said, either the Asia Foundation or ICA might be interested in sponsoring such a police course. Musolf

suggested that it would be a good idea for us to look over the present courses given in the Evening School and to determine what additional courses would be needed. Perhaps American teachers would have to take the police course in the beginning but later on they could be assumed by Vietnamese. Musolf said that he would write Mr. Thong on the matter.

8. Mr. Khanh. Mr. Khanh visited the NIA and said that he has requested a transfer to the Institute but has as yet received no answer. Until such transfer is forthcoming Mr. Khanh will work on town planning.

9. Mr. Van. Mr. Musolf reminded Mr. Thong that Mr. Van would return from the U.S. in July with his Master's degree. Mr. Thong said that upon Mr. Van's return he would consider Van for a faculty position at the NIA.

10. Mr. Musolf referred to a letter from a Vietnamese Harvard University law student who asked a number of questions about what courses he should take. Mr. Thong says it is not clear from the letter if the student wishes to be a lawyer or a teacher. If he wishes to be a lawyer it will be necessary for him to have the license en droit and to have three years of training in a law office and a final examination. At any rate Mr. Thong said he would write an answer to the student's letter.