

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

July 8, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Conference with Rector Thong and Chief Advisor, July 7, 1960

Musolf opened the meeting by saying that he had noted the announcements regarding the three new participants. He expressed the opinion that the plans of the NIA for using participants, and MSUG's plans for sending Ph.D. participants, need to be coordinated. Mr. Thong pointed out that the Administrative Council had just adopted a policy whereby half-time faculty members would gradually be eliminated. In converting to a faculty of full-time members the NIA would make full use of the returning Ph.D. participants. However, Mr. Thong said that according to a letter from the Vietnamese ambassador in the U.S., very few of the present participants in the U.S. intend to work for the NIA. Mr. Phat, though he is doing well in his studies, has expressed a desire to return to Vietnam after passing his preliminary examinations; he wants to complete his doctorate examination while working for the NIA. Mr. Thong said there was little hope that Bach-Lan would ever work for the NIA. It also seems that Mr. Thanh may be lost to the NIA. Mr. Ky, it seems, might go to Foreign Affairs. Mr. Dich will obtain only a Master's degree. Toan is a question mark. Mr. Thong gave assurance that if any of the foregoing participants returned with a Ph.D. degree, the NIA ^{new willing} will employ them. Musolf asked if the NIA might experience any difficulty in obtaining priority on the returning participants. For example, asked Musolf, would it be difficult to get Ky if he wants to go to Foreign Affairs? Mr. Thong responded that it was doubtful whether the NIA could get Ky if, first, Ky expressed a desire to go to Foreign Affairs, and, second, Foreign Affairs put in a bid for Ky. About the only recourse the NIA could ^{have}, he said, was to appeal to the Presidency. Musolf, after mentioning the fact that the intent of the participant program was to furnish Ph.D.'s for the NIA, asked whether or not the three projected participants could sign an agreement to work for the NIA. Mr. Thong said that of course this would be done but that those already in the U.S. had signed a similar agreement. Musolf then suggested perhaps it would be well to make the commitment stronger. He offered MSUG's support in trying to make arrangements to bind the Ph.D. participants upon their return to the NIA. He said that MSUG would write a letter to the NIA expressing MSUG's concern over the fact that the NIA was not receiving a large enough number of Ph.D. participants. Mr. Thong could then use the letter as he pleased. Mr. Thong said he would welcome MSUG's support in this respect. Thong and Musolf finally agreed that it would be desirable first, to have those participants already in the U.S. sign an agreement to work for the NIA at

the time their grants are renewed; second, to have the participants who are chosen in the future sign an agreement to work for the NIA before they leave.

Musolf then asked the question as to how many more participants (beyond the three projected ones plus Xuyen) the NIA could anticipate using. Mr. Thong said that it would be impossible to give an exact number at this time, but pointed out that there are 28 members on the staff of whom only 6 are now full-time members. Therefore, a substantial number of Ph.D. participants could be received, perhaps at least 10 or 11. Mr. Thong cautioned, however, that some of the participants now in the program might resign and the estimates would have to be revised. Musolf then asked whether the NIA would be able to take any Ph.D. participants even if a number of present half-time members were slow in resigning. Thong answered yes, that the participants could always be used in the Research Division if there was not at the moment an available teaching position. Mr. Thong says that since the NIA has only one representative on the committee of recruitment of the Fonction Publique, it is sometimes difficult to get a specific person for the NIA, but if a strong enough case is made we may get such participants. Mr. Thong suggested an exchange of letters between the NIA and MSUG. Each side would express its views on participants. Musolf approved of the idea and said that in his letter he would like to point out the advantages of using participants as full-time members over the present system of half-time faculty members.

Musolf then introduced the question involved in Mr. Cuong's English language preparation. He called attention to the attitudes both of USOM and the Committee on Overseas Studies. These agencies believe that it is essential that participants going to the U.S. have an adequate knowledge of English. It is believed that Cuong's knowledge of English is at present inadequate for classes at American universities. For his own benefit in deriving maximum results of his stay in the States, he needs to be familiar with English. Musolf suggested that he undertake an early enrollment in an English class at the VAA. Mr. Thong agreed that it is advisable for Prof. Cuong to have a knowledge of English in order to maximize his visit to the U.S., but he pointed out that the arrete has already been signed to send Mr. Cuong to the U.S. What does Musolf suggest about this? Musolf said that the arrete always has to be issued well beforehand; however, many persons who are on the list of the arretees do not go if later examinations show that their English is not adequate. He cited examples: Musolf expressed the regret that Mr. Cuong was the only faculty member who has been asked to pass an English examination, but explained that an ICA regulation requires such knowledge of English and that Mr. Cuong needs training in English. If he does not enroll soon it may be too late. Mr. Thong asked if it would be advisable to organize a special course and hold a special test for Mr. Cuong. Musolf said that this was doubtful because the VAA is short of teachers and a special class would be

rather expensive. He added that the VAA would, however, give special consideration to Mr. Cuong by holding a special examination for him and by placing him immediately into a class at his level of competence. Mr. Thong pointed out that any English class Mr. Cuong takes would have to be fitted in with his teaching responsibilities at the NIA.

At this point Musolf pointed out that high ICA officials had recently expressed some scathing criticisms at the lack of preparation in English of participants. One high official, in fact, insists on interviewing all public administration officials who come to Washington. This official says he has been astounded how poorly some participants are able to express themselves in English. Mr. Thong said that MSUG was quite logical in insisting on a knowledge of English for participants but was this not in Mr. Cuong's case a new rule? Had Mr. Cuong been properly informed that he would have to demonstrate evidence of fitness in English? Musolf replied that Mr. Cuong had been informed sometime ago that he would have to take an English examination, and that a meeting had been set up between Cannaday (VAA) and Cuong, but Cuong did not show up for the meeting. Mr. Thong said that he would talk with Mr. Cuong.

Mr. Thong requested MSUG's assistance in connection with a bulletin or journal which Vietnam is responsible for publishing for EROPA. Mr. Musolf said that MSUG would be very happy to help in the editing, advising, and any other matters with the exception of finances. Mr. Thong wanted to know whether or not MSUG knows of any persons in other countries who might contribute articles. Musolf replied that most of the persons whom we know are Westerners, and the question was raised whether or not they should contribute articles to the publication. His impression was that the journal should be primarily one written by Asian people. Mr. Thong said that he agreed that the articles should be essentially thus written by Asian people, but that he would like to have some articles by Westerners. At this point Fox suggested that in order to get over the hurdle of the first issue it might be appropriate to have each country select what it regarded as the best article published during the year on the subject of administration, and then to embody the selected articles in the No. 1 issue of the journal. This proposal was discussed for a while. Mr. Thong said the journal would probably be issued quarterly and he hoped the first issue would appear in November. Mr. Thong said that no contributions have been received yet. Musolf said in the event it is decided that the first issue will be a compilation of best articles published during the past year, he believed it appropriate if Mr. Thong would write the letter to request such articles. This would emphasize the role of Vietnam and stress the fact that the journal is an Asian periodical. Furthermore, if it is decided to publish the first issue in this fashion, Fox can poll the Division to see whether its members have any contributions for the second number. Also, East Lansing would be alerted, and other persons who might be interested in writing articles will be contacted. Mr. Thong called attention to the high number of applicants for admission to the Institute in August. The number is over 800.