

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

September 16, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Conference with Rector Thong and Chief Advisor, Sept. 15, 1960

1. News from Manila. Dr. Musolf opened the meeting by saying that Carlos Ramos, whom he recently visited in Manila, requested him to send his greetings to Mr. Thong. Dr. Ramos regrets that he probably will not be able to visit Saigon as originally planned.

The WHO building will be used for the EROPA conference, Musolf said. It is a spacious, modern, attractive building. Invitations to delegates and the agenda of the conference should be forthcoming shortly. The probable date of the conference is December 9-16. Mr. Thong said that the memo sent from Manila announcing the meeting indicated the conference would be held December 4-10. Musolf said he could not say with certainty that 9-16 December was the meeting time.

Musolf said he asked Carlos Ramos whether MSUG and other groups should attend as observers. Ramos said he did not intend to issue invitations to observers, but that he might send out a letter to interested parties announcing the meeting and saying that visitors might find it interesting and profitable to hold their own discussions in Manila during the time of the meeting.

Mr. Thong said that he had received a letter from the Nationalist Chinese delegate who has a paper to prepare but who thus far has not received any answers to the questionnaire except the one furnished to him by Vietnam.

2. In-service training conference. The in-service training conference which originally was to be held in Korea, has been cancelled, and the EROPA secretariat would like to have the meeting held elsewhere. Would the NIA be interested in having the meeting here, asked Dr. Musolf? The duties of the host country should not be too onerous. A background paper by an NIA member would be entailed but the participating countries would furnish the chairman and conduct the sessions which would be essentially discussions and exchanges of information. Mr. Thong said that the NIA was interested in having the conference here but doubted that there was sufficient time for the necessary preparations. The conference was originally scheduled to be held in October in Korea. He added that the consent of the President would be necessary in order to hold such a

meeting and that there was the problem of expenses. Musolf said he believed few expenses would be involved. Each country would pay the travel and living expenses of its delegates. The chief contribution of the NIA would be to provide the facilities for the meeting. Musolf also said that it was his understanding that the meeting would probably not be held now until December or even January. Mr. Thong said that if the meeting was to be held that late he would certainly consider having it here. He would take the question under advisement before making a decision.

3. Duy Tan. Thong acknowledged Turner's letter apprising him of the fact that Gardiner had written Vu Van Thai to request the use of the Duy Tan apartments by USOM. He said that he would express the NIA viewpoint in a letter to Gardiner and send a copy of the letter to Thai. Musolf said he was happy Thong had taken this course, and pointed out that he had written Gardiner just before he left for Manila, saying that the apartments should rightfully go to the GVN when they were vacated by MSUG. Musolf said he was disturbed by the fact that Gardiner's letter did not present the NIA's claim to Duy Tan. Musolf added he would talk with Mr. Thai at 3:30 p.m. on Friday about the matter. He will express the view to Mr. Thai that the apartments should be turned over to the GVN for use by the NIA. Mr. Thong remarked that if MSUG no longer needs the apartments he would be pleased to have them for the Institute.

4. Col. Nam's letter. Mr. Thong said that Col. Nam had written a letter to the ICC. Mr. Thong asked if MSUG would check the English wording of the letter. Musolf said that Fox would see that the English is checked as desired. Thong said that he would like to have the corrected letter returned as quickly as possible.

5. Release of typist to the NIA. Thong asked when a typist could be released by MSUG to work for the NIA on its EROPA program. Fox said that MSUG's Administrative Services would release three typists next week and the NIA, through Mr. Khanh, was to select one. In the meanwhile MSUG would be glad to help the NIA with any typing for EROPA. MSUG has already agreed with Mr. Khanh to keep a typist on MSUG's payroll for one month while she is being processed by GVN for the NIA. However, Mr. Khanh later said that the processing by the GVN might take as long as three months. Fox said he had been awaiting Musolf's return to inquire whether MSUG could assume the position for that period of time. Musolf said that he would appreciate as much advance notice as possible--several months if possible--when the NIA wishes to take over present MSUG staff. Thong said that such notice had been given three months ago in the case of the typist. Musolf expressed the desire of MSUG to cooperate with the NIA in the transfer of the typist.

6. Business administration. Musolf said that at the recent business administration conference in Saigon the idea was expressed that the best way to develop business administrators would be to send prospective

teachers to the United States for study. Where the teachers would instruct was not brought out at the meeting. However, Harvard professors seemed to indicate that a special school was desired. The idea was voiced at the conference that business administration training not be vested in the university because the university is not a suitable locus and would probably not be receptive to a business administration program. Musolf said that the ICA will probably not react to Ruben Austin's report in the near future, but rather will take an attitude of "wait and see." ICA will also want to obtain the recommendations of the Brookings advisors now in Vietnam. Dienes and Gardiner appear to be opposed to university level training in business administration and will probably take no action.

7. Foreign service training. Musolf asked whether or not the NIA had been thinking about setting up a special training program for the foreign service. Mr. Thong replied that the NIA has given serious consideration to setting up a foreign service section at the Institute. If this were done, much of the present curriculum could be used. The Presidency has indicated that it would not be adverse to such a plan. Mr. Thong asked if Musolf had any ideas on the matter. Musolf said if such a section should be set up (and he emphasized the point that he was not necessarily recommending such a section), Mr. Ky, a Ph.D. participant now in the States, might be a logical person to head the section. At present it seems that Mr. Ky will return to Foreign Affairs instead of the NIA. Musolf said that he had also raised the question about foreign service training because the Coordinator's office in East Lansing wants recommendations from MSUG by mid-October regarding the needs of the NIA. Such information is necessary in order to plan MSUG's future role in Vietnam through a foundation or otherwise. Musolf said he would appreciate the NIA's submitting statements regarding the specific needs of the Institute. Provided the NIA does intend to set up a foreign service section, this would be an important factor in determining whether MSUG personnel would be furnished in the international field.

8. Buu Dich. Mr. Thong announced that Mr. Buu Dich had returned to Saigon although he had not yet seen him. Musolf expressed surprise that MSUG had received no ETA from East Lansing on Buu Dich. This is the first time we have failed to receive such an ETA, said Fox.

9. Technical committee. Mr. Thong said that the Technical Committee for the new NIA buildings can meet next week.

10. Committee for the selection of Ph.D. participants. Mr. Thong also reminded Musolf of the meeting on Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 a.m., of the committee for the selection of Ph.D. participants.

11. Mr. Hong. Mr. Thong said that he had received a letter from Mr. Hong in Paris. Hong is interested in applying for a Ph.D. participant grant. Musolf said that Vice President Tho had said he is paying the salary of Mr. Hong and would not permit Hong's transfer to the NIA. Thong and Musolf appeared to agree that the Vice President's attitude precluded the consideration of Hong for a participant grant.