

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

November 4, 1960

Guy H. Fox

Conference with Rector Thong and Chief Advisor, Nov. 3, 1960

1. Business Administration School. Thong said he had just received a letter from Musolf saying MSU is ready and willing to assist in the development of the business administration program at the NIA in the event a request is received from GVN and ICA. Thong thanked Musolf for the letter.

2. Xuyen. Musolf asked what was the status of Xuyen. Mr. Thong said that he was now under consideration. There is a question as to whether or not Xuyen, if approved, would return to Vietnam after receiving his degree. Musolf said he believed the matter should be cleared by a yes or no answer from Planning. Perhaps it would be well, he said, to have Dean Austin check with the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington.

Thong said that he has received no reply to a letter which he sent to Xuyen about three months ago. In response to Musolf's question as to whether or not Xuyen had agreed, if given a grant, to work for the NIA, Thong said he would have to check on the matter; at least, he said, Xuyen had been apprised of the requirement to work for the NIA. Thong said that he would contact the Director of Plan in an effort to ascertain the status of Xuyen.

3. Book Exhibit. Musolf called Thong's attention to Mr. Dienes' letter saying that USIS would furnish a number of public administration books to the NIA library for an exhibit after the move to the new campus. Thong said he has written an answer to the letter but it has not been sent out. He has made a decision to accept USIS' offer. Thong had not answered sooner because Dienes' letter had left the impression that the exhibition would be publicized and open to the general public. Dienes however had explained over the telephone that this was not the case.

4. Duy Tan. Musolf said he regretted the decision made by GVN on Duy Tan; MSUG had tried hard to have the apartments assigned to the NIA. Musolf noted that the apartments were not assigned to USOM as Gardiner had requested, but rather to GVN. Thong said that it was not yet decided which agency in the GVN would receive the apartments. Musolf expressed surprise saying he thought the apartments were in the hands of the Planning Agency. Thong said that consideration was being given to housing the Smith-Mundt professors and UNESCO employees there. Musolf indicated that it might be possible to house at least some visiting professors and NIA personnel at Duy Tan.

5. Chung. Musolf asked about the status of Chung, recently selected by a joint NIA-MSUG committee for a Ph.D. participant grant. Thong said that he had written the Director of Plan to announce the selection. Musolf said if Planning does not announce a decision soon perhaps a reminder should be sent to them.

6. Tel Aviv trip. Thong said the NIA would send one delegate to the Tel Aviv conference on local government to be held November 15, 1960.

7. Foreign service curriculum. Thong thanked MSUG for furnishing the NIA information relative to curricula for foreign service training in the U.S. He said an NIA committee had been set up to study the feasibility of creating a new foreign affairs section. Musolf asked if the Institute had received any information from Foreign Affairs regarding the contemplated section. Thong replied that no formal word had been received; however, informally Foreign Affairs had given encouragement. Musolf asked whether a foreign affairs section, if created, would be on a par with the existing sections. Thong replied that this had not yet been determined and would depend on the construction of the section. Musolf then asked whether it was intended that the number of students in the foreign service section should be determined by the needs for foreign service personnel. Thong answered that this would not be necessary because the section would be open not only to those who intend with certainty to enter the foreign service but also to others who want to get a degree in foreign affairs; that is, a number of students would receive no scholarship stipends and no assurance of a job upon graduation. Thong reiterated the intention of the NIA to adopt this same policy for existing sections. Such a policy should mean an appreciable increase in the number of students, he said.

8. NIA building. Thong said that Mr. Shankey has received some specifications from the U.S. on plastic tubes which are being considered for use on the new NIA campus. A Japanese company will be contacted on the matter.

9. EROPA Journal. Many articles from Japan, Indonesia, Thailand and other countries have been received for the first EROPA Journal. There is now a sufficient number of articles for the first Journal which will be issued on a quarterly basis. Musolf said it would perhaps be a good idea to devote an entire issue to a common problem discussed from the viewpoints of various countries. Thong said that the Center intended to do that for a later issue, but he believed this plan would not be appropriate for the first issue. Musolf suggested the desirability of planning six months in advance for the Journal; that is, the material should be ready at least three months before each issue of the journal.

10. MSUG automobiles. Thong said that he had heard that several good MSUG automobiles had been turned over to the GVN. Musolf said that this was not the case. Four automobiles in very bad condition were given to

the GVN for a technical school. These automobiles would not run and are to be disassembled for the training of mechanics. Thong said it had been reported that these cars were much later models than the Verdettes. Musolf replied that this was true but the Verdettes were in much better shape. He reiterated that the cars given to the technical school would not even run.

Musolf said that the NIA in deciding whether or not to take the Verdettes now or to wait for better cars later, should know that the Volkswagen Microbusses would probably be the only ones in good shape by the time of the expiration of the contract. Several of our present cars now in good shape are constantly deteriorating. Thong made the request that MSUG, before turning over cars to GVN, so inform the NIA and give the Institute an opportunity to choose the cars being surrendered. Musolf said he would be glad to do this.

11. Interviews and questionnaire for plan. Thong said there had arisen some difficulties over MSUG's questionnaire and interviewing of faculty members. He said that information on all the questions raised by MSUG could be available without questionnaires or interview. In view of NIA faculty attitudes it was not politic to query the faculty. Moreover, it is not necessary. Thong said that he realized that MSUG is adopting a scientific approach and requires factual data. Musolf said that the main thing from MSUG's viewpoint is obtaining the information. If the administration of the NIA can furnish the information, that would certainly be all right. Thong said the NIA administration, he was sure, could furnish the necessary data.

12. Cuong. Cuong has definitely given up his trip to the U.S. This is probably because of his shortcoming in English. Moreover, Mr. Cuong is a very proud person and is reluctant to submit himself to an English test. Musolf asked if it would be necessary or advisable for MSUG to write Mr. Cuong. Thong said this would not be necessary.

13. Possible ICA application. Musolf said that if the NIA intended to make an application to ICA for further aid and assistance, such application should be made very soon. He suggested that the final date of an application be submitted no later than the early part of December. Dr. LaPalombara, in the meanwhile, is making the preliminary inquiries to Foundations. Before a formal approach can be made to a Foundation the question should be settled as to whether or not there will be ICA aid. Dr. LaPalombara will come to Vietnam in early January. The request for ICA aid, if made, should come from the NIA and the Government of Vietnam. The facts discovered in the present study of the NIA should probably furnish the necessary basis for an application. Thong said that any application for ICA aid coming from the NIA would have to go through Vu Van Thai's office which coordinates requests for foreign aid. Musolf said he believes ICA may not be in favor of extending the contract beyond June, 1962. Therefore, it is essential that the NIA furnish as much detail and support as possible in an application for ICA aid if the request is to have any chance whatsoever of a favorable reception.