

15 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Guy H. Fox

SUBJECT: Conference with Rector Thong and Chief
Advisor, May 12.

1. The Gioi Tu Do. Musolf presented Thong with copies of the magazine "The Gioi Tu Do" which contains an article with illustrations about the NIA.
2. Le Ba Do. Musolf called Thong's attention to the fact that under a present agreement, MSUG is supplementing Le Ba Do's salary until September 1961. He expressed the hope that the NIA could pay Le Ba Do this additional amount after September 1961 and at any rate after December 31, 1961. Thong said that it was doubtful that the NIA could raise Le Ba Do's salary during CY 1961, but he hoped this would be possible beginning January, 1962.

Musolf said that Le Ba Do is disappointed by the fact that his skills are not being used. Thong said he also regretted this, but that Le Ba Do will soon have ample opportunity to use his knowledge in working with the provincial centers. Le Ba Do will train at least one person and probably two for each of the 15 provincial centers called for by the 226 project.

3. Miss Ti. Musolf said it was his understanding that Vice Rector Dang's plan was to advance Miss Ti within the Tu Ky class after which he would attempt to have her transferred to the Tham Su class. Thong said that the NIA had promised Miss Ti a raise if she received her degree in library science. Thus far, however, Fonction Publique has not responded satisfactorily to the NIA's request for her advancement. Only 2 or 3 weeks ago the NIA made another attempt to obtain her advancement but received no response from the Fonction Publique. However, there is some new hope for Miss Ti. A recent circular from the Presidency says that a person, even if he or she does not possess the baccalaureate but does possess a license, may receive an advancement. A Bachelor of Arts degree, Thong said, will probably be equated at least as one part of the license. This circular is Article 3, 68TTP/CV dated 17 January 1961.

4. Factual report and recommendations. Musolf said he had been informed the NIA had held two meetings to discuss MSU's recommendations for improving the NIA. He asked Thong whether any other action would be taken during the summer vacations. For example, have any committees been established to consider the proposals? Thong replied that no action would be taken on the recommendations before the end of vacation. At any rate, he said, the Academic Council has discussed the recommendations. Musolf expressed the fear that with the move to the new campus, NIA might overlook or neglect the recommendations. Thong said that this would not be the case. Some of the recommendations have already been accepted, and a committee has been established to study some of the others. He assured Musolf that the NIA would give careful consideration to MSUG's recommendations.

5. Participants. Musolf said he had some unpleasant news about our Ph.D. participants.

a. Chung. A telegram from Austin states that Chung is in jeopardy at the University of Pennsylvania because of the debts he has incurred for his tuition. Fox expressed some surprise at this because he said it was his understanding that MSUG had accepted Chung as a participant in September and had been paying him since that date. Musolf said that perhaps Chung was receiving only a per diem payment and that MSUG had not paid his tuition. At any rate he hoped that now that Chung had been fully accepted and cleared that this matter could be straightened out.

b. Khanh. Musolf said that MSUG had received a telegram stating that Khanh wanted a year's delay before accepting a Ph.D. participant grant. Thong said that he was familiar with this case and that he had a copy of a letter written by Khanh to Jim Hendry. In his letter Khanh had said he wanted to study in London; that he was not certain that he would receive a grant from the NIA. He did, however, indicate that he would stay in the U.S. and not accept the award to study in London in the event he received the NIA scholarship. Musolf said it seemed evident from the cablegram that Khanh now knows that he has been awarded an NIA participant grant, but apparently he still wants to go to London. Thong said he believes we must be absolutely certain that Khanh knows that he has been awarded a participant grant. Musolf and Fox expressed the view that if Khanh insists upon going to England after he knows he has a participant grant, it would perhaps be a

good idea to apprise him that the most we can promise is to accept a new application from him upon his return and have him compete with other candidates. Musolf and Thong agreed that it was not advisable to agree to a one year's delay in awarding the grant to Khanh.

c. Phat. Musolf said that he had received a telegram from Austin saying that Phat wishes to return home after taking his preliminary oral examinations because of his "mental anxiety" over his family. Vice Rector Dang and Ruben Austin will go to Boston to try to persuade Phat to remain at Harvard until he receives his degree. Thong said that he would write to Phat in a further effort to convince him that he should remain at the university.

6. PA Advisor. Musolf said that he had been informed by the Coordinator's office that Dr. Roy Jumper was interested in joining MSUG as a PA advisor. Dr. Jumper was formerly in Vietnam under a Ford fellowship. The Coordinator's office has asked MSU to ascertain whether or not Dr. Jumper would be acceptable to GVN. Thong said he recalls Dr. Jumper was in Vietnam during 1955, and that upon Jumper's return to the U.S. he wrote some articles which were not complimentary to Vietnam and which received the attention of the President. He said he would obtain the GVN's reaction to having Jumper return as a member of MSUG.

7. O&O project. Thong said that Murtha wants to have deleted from the O&O project the provision calling for the cooperation of the NIA with the USIS in the translation of textbooks. Musolf explained some of the reasons for the delay in the implementation of PL-480 by USIS. He and Fox pointed out that an economics book by Samuelson was virtually completed and that it was planned to translate a book in international relations for use at the NIA. Musolf said that the provision could be deleted without any particular harm but that MSUG preferred its inclusion.

8. NIA's application to ICA. Thong said that Gardiner had written him a letter to acknowledge the NIA's application to ICA for a renewal of the contract. Musolf said he had made it clear to Murtha that it was Thong's understanding that this letter, after being perused by Gardiner, was to be transmitted to ICA for consideration.

9. Musolf's departure. Musolf said that his date of departure from Vietnam had been advanced from May 23 to May 22.