

cc: L. Maynard

File

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

July 11, 1961

Guy H. Fox, Chief Advisor

Meeting with Rector Thong, July 6

Thong gave a brief account of his trip to the United States. He met with Ruben Austin and Jim Hendry in Washington but did not go to East Lansing. Thong decided not to visit Michigan State University when he found out that the people he wanted to see most of all there were out of the city. He called the attention of Austin and Hendry to the present shortage of MSUG staff at the NIA. While in Washington, Thong had a discussion with Gus Hertz of PAD/ICA. Hertz wanted to know whether or not the NIA was interested in renewing its contract with MSU. To this question Thong gave an unequivocal "yes." Hertz was also interested in the number of technicians who would come to Vietnam under a new contract. Thong presented the ideas of the NIA in this matter. Hertz reported he had heard relationships between the NIA and MSUG were "not smooth." Thong said that he denied to Hertz that this was the case. Fox confirmed Thong's views that Hertz had somehow been misinformed and suggested that perhaps Hertz was trying to bait him in an effort to test the relations between the NIA and MSUG. Thong said that Hertz intends to come to Saigon in August for the dedication of the new NIA buildings.

Thong reported on his visits with the participants while he was in the United States. He had an opportunity of talking with Phat, Toan, Khanh, Xuyen, and Kim Sa. Moreover, he saw Mrs. Bach-Lan, who is now running a restaurant. Phat was convinced that he should obtain a Ph.D. before returning to Vietnam. Several of the participants, Thong said, have been misinformed about Vietnam and expressed unwarranted fears about the conditions in this country. Thong said that both he and Dang had dispelled their fears as much as possible. Thong suggested the sending of Vietnamese papers and magazines to the various participants. This would not only enable them to keep up with their Vietnamese but would keep them informed of the true conditions in Vietnam.

The IULA Conference was exceptionally good. Thong said he introduced a resolution calling for the designation of an international day for municipal authorities in each of the participating countries. The resolution carried. He said the next meeting of the EROPA will be held in either the third or fourth week of October. He reported that the conference would be held in Tokyo and that the subject of discussion would be metropolitan government.

Thong informed Fox that the Technical Committee for supervising construction of the new NIA would meet on Saturday morning. Fox said that perhaps the most interesting news to be reported from Saigon during the Rector's absence is the fact that USOM has agreed informally to give the NIA \$1,720,000 for landscaping. Fox qualified his statement somewhat, however, by saying that Beidler--at a cocktail party--had stated that the amount to be granted by USOM would be somewhat less and that Mr. Gardiner had indicated his belief the Vietnam Department of Agriculture would furnish trees on the new campus. However, Fox emphasized the fact that the Program Division of USOM mentioned the figure of \$1,720,000. Fox requested Thong to remind Suu to send the engineer to see Emery about the installation of telephones at the new NIA. Fox also brought up the question of the maintenance shop on the new campus. Thong said this problem would be resolved either by bringing some of the present NIA quonsets to the new campus or by constructing a new building.

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