

10 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of Rector Vu Quoc Thong; Dr. Fox, Chief Advisor; and Leonard Maynard.

1. The Rector stated that he had received a request from the Information Agency to organize a program of pre-service and in-service training for information and press officers. It is his tentative intention to respond by advising that the information and press service organization organize its own program with the advice of MSUG and the NIA, and he accordingly requested Dr. Fox to make some general recommendations on curriculum. Dr. Fox pointed out that MSUG did not have an appropriate consultant available, but that such a consultant might be sent here if desirable and feasible. Maynard suggested that USIS be consulted on this matter and all agreed that a meeting was necessary with the information service to determine more precisely the nature of the problem.

2. The Rector has received a letter from Ngo Dinh Thuc regarding a candidate from Hue for a Ph.D. grant. The candidate does not appear to meet our requirements and has declined the grant.

3. The question of Frank Child's essays on Economic Growth, Capital Formation and Public Policy arose. Dr. Fox suggested that the NIA take over the distribution of all publications in the future, with MSUG preserving a number of publications for its own distribution list. The Rector recounted the history of the situation and said that the Presidency did not like Child's views on capital formation and the use of reserves as expressed in Frank Child's book of essays. Apparently the first occasional paper which contains Child's first essay has not come to the attention of the Presidency. This occasional paper was previewed by the NIA, whereas the book of essays was published unilaterally by MSUG. The Rector said that MSUG, as a sole editor of any publication, should follow the regular GVN regulations which require advance censorship by an agency of the government. Those publications which are jointly published are the responsibility of the Rector; to whom has been delegated the authority to approve the contents. Dr. Fox stated that he would refer the matter to MSU, East Lansing.

Throughout the discussion the question of censorship was referred to. Dr. Fox discussed the importance of freedom from censorship and, in particular, the sacredness of this principle to the academician. He reminded that MSUG had reluctantly agreed to not publish anything not in the interest

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of the Government of Vietnam. The Rector stated his sympathy with Dr. Fox's point of view but pointed out that the government was being harrassed by propaganda of the Viet Minh, and this propaganda was nourished by articles such as Child's. Dr. Fox rebutted by saying that the non-publication of Child's article would not in any way have limited the propaganda efforts of the Viet Minh.

4. Dr. Fox presented some extracts from a letter from Ruben Austin concerning conversations with Gus Hertz in which Hertz asked for evidence that the NIA is given serious considerations to the MSUG recommendations on improving the NIA. Dr. Fox asked for, and Rector Thong agreed to write a letter responding to this matter.

5. The problem of professional and personal relationships between the NIA and MSUG staff members was discussed. Everybody agreed that all personnel should exercise tact, diplomacy, patience, understanding, etc. The Rector expressed particularly the desirability of frankness.

Leonard Maynard

LM/rbm