

31 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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

1. Rector Thong asked for the MSU reaction to the NIA letter commenting on MSU's recommendations for improvement of the NIA. Dr. Fox said that he had just recently received the letter which was now being translated, and that he had not yet had an opportunity to consider it.
2. Dr. Fox announced the arrival of the coordinator, Dr. James Hendry on 5 September 1961. Dr. Hendry will remain in Saigon two or three weeks. Rector Thong expressed the hope that the landscaping and furnishing of the new NIA buildings and grounds will be completed in time for the dedication ceremony, or at least before October 26, the Vietnamese National Day.
3. Regarding the query from ICA asking if ICA representation at the NIA dedication was desirable, the Rector responded in the affirmative. Dr. Fox then said that Mr. Gardiner was of the opinion that if a high ranking ICA official was in the region, arrangements should be made for him to attend the ceremony. However, if such an official would have to come from Washington especially for the dedication ceremony, the expense of such a trip would not be warranted. Dr. Fox pointed out that in any event the Ambassador, Mr. Gardiner, and other prominent American officials would be present.
4. Rector Thong asked about the status of Ton That Trach's request for travel expenses to attend the IIAS conference in Lisbon. Maynard replied that the approval had been received and USOM was in the process of obtaining tickets. The Rector then asked if the Aid Program could underwrite the travel of the NIA representatives to the Tokyo conference of EROPA. Fox said that MSU would pay for this travel notwithstanding the USOM policy to avoid underwriting travel expenses to non-ICA-sponsored international conferences. The Rector asked if MSU would furnish the travel expenses for two people, and Fox stated that this could be arranged. The Rector said that the Vietnamese delegates should leave Saigon for Tokyo on about 25 October 1961.

5. The Rector asked for MSU views on the officer training curriculum which was proposed at a recent meeting of interested officials. Fox indorsed the use of In-Service Training to meet the short range immediate needs and approved of specialization in the third year for NIA students.
6. Fox noted the detail of the ProAg provisions provides funds for landscaping the new NIA buildings.
7. Fox raised the question of Mr. Nhan, currently studying at the University of Michigan. Mr. Nhan is majoring in social psychology, and is interested in receiving an extension of his grant in order to complete his studies toward the Ph.D. Fox said that USOM is agreeable to an extension of the grant if the NIA will employ Mr. Nhan upon the successful completion of his studies. Fox agreed to confirm this commitment with USOM, following which the Rector will correspond with Mr. Nhan in order to obtain his consent to work for the NIA upon his return to Vietnam.
8. Rector Thong said that he had just received a letter from Mr. Thuan requesting the NIA to intercede with the Department of National Defense in obtaining a deferral from the draft, to permit his travel to England in order to complete his Ph.D.
9. The Rector announced a meeting of the Technical Committee for next week and invited Dr. Fox to attend.
10. Dr. Fox brought up the question of Miss Ti, the librarian, and her forthcoming participant grant to study for a MS degree in library science in the US. He pointed out that MSUG and the NIA were in agreement that she should receive this grant, but no decision had been reached as to her time of departure. There are two alternatives: first she can go in June upon the return of Kim Sa; or second, she can go in January or February previous to that. Dr. Fox favors the latter course on the grounds that Miss Ti would begin her training sooner and thus return sooner. In the interim between her departure and the arrival of Miss Kim Sa, the well trained library clerks could maintain the library.
11. Mr. Maynard mentioned the interest of the Ministry of National Education in Mr. Le Ba Do, the NIA Audio Visual Specialist. According to USOM informants, the Minister of National Education stated that he could obtain a monthly salary of 10,000 piasters for Mr. Le Ba Do. Everybody

agreed that this was unlikely in view of the previous decisions of the Fonction Publique in connection with the NIA requests for salary increases for Mr. Le Ba Do. However, if the Fonction Publique agrees to the request of the Ministry of National Education for a 10,000 piaster salary, the NIA intends to protest vigorously.