

File

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

September 27, 1961

Guy H. Fox, Chief Advisor

Meeting with Rector Thong on September 26

Present: Messrs. Thong, Hendry and Fox

In view of the holiday period beginning on Thursday and the inability of Thong to meet with Hendry on Wednesday, Hendry explained that he was coming to pay his final respects to the Rector. He said his visit to Vietnam had been very useful. Thong asked Hendry to tell him about his visit to Thuan. Hendry said that one of the reasons for coming to see Thong was to relay his discussion with Thuan. Thuan expressed concern over the criticisms being written by returning members of MSUG. He appeared to be unhappy about Taylor's articles and others which he did not specify. He seemed to feel that the University should exercise some control over those faculty members who have returned home. Hendry had replied to Thuan that the University could request faculty members not to reveal secret or classified information but it could not censor faculty members for expressing their opinions. Perhaps, Hendry said, he did not fully understand Thuan, or perhaps Thuan was expressing merely his personal opinion and was not reflecting the attitude of the President.

Thong said it was a mistake to try to combine the question of a contract with the views which returning professors might take in the United States. The question of contract is one which the President and not Thuan will decide. Thuan, he said, was expressing only his own views as to the moral obligation of returning MSU faculty members. Thong said he had his instructions from the President to proceed to negotiate for a contract and that he would do so. Hendry emphasized the point that he had held only a general conversation with Thuan and that there had been no discussion over an extension of the contract. There had been no offers or negotiations whatsoever.

Fox explained the results of the meeting with Mr. Lan and Mr. Tri of the Budget Direction. He said Lan had agreed to recommend to the Budget Direction that the five library assistants would be paid out of counterpart funds. He believed his proposal would be accepted. In this event it would be possible, Lan said, to transfer the funds now earmarked for the library assistants to additional maintenance personnel. Fox asked if it would then be possible for Miss Ti to go to the United States in 1962. He said he realized she should be there during the opening months of the new NIA in order to establish library operations on a routine basis. Thong said he would take this matter under consideration.

Thong said he had received a letter from the Director General of Information saying distribution of the My Thuan study must be stopped, for the time being. He said he would send me a copy of the letter. Fox asked if there were any indications as to which parts of the study were unacceptable. Thong said the Director General had said it contained material which would make useful propaganda for the communists. Fox said he would like to talk with the Director General of Information about the matter.

Because it would entail a long discussion, Fox said he would defer his main comments on the NIA's 5-year plan until a later meeting. He did say, however, that he believed the plan could be improved if the goals and objectives were translated into terms of human and financial resources. Thong pointed out that the version he had read was merely a first draft and that the final plan would be more specific.

Fox suggested that the study of hamlet finances and administration in My Thuan either be 1) distributed by the NIA, or 2) distributed by MSUG--to a list of persons determined by the NIA.

GHF:dw

cc: Vice Rector Dang
James B. Hendry
Leonard Maynard✓