

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. John T. Dorsey Jr., Chief,  
Public Administration Division  
FROM : James B. Hendry, Act'g Head Research Division  
SUBJECT : Research Proposal.

DATE : October 1, 1957

JBH

Attached hereto is the proposal for a research project on urban immigration submitted by Miss Phuc. The general purpose and scope of the project is as indicated, and there is a section at the end which sets forth the government agencies most likely to be interested in the results of this study, and their particular concerns.

This is the project we discussed recently, and I recommend that it be approved and that the necessary clearances be obtained so that Miss Phuc may begin work on it as soon as possible.

1 Incl.

JBH/hsm

Proposed Research Project on Urban Immigration

by

Vo Hong Phuoc

There is need for research in urban problems due to the increased urbanization which has taken place since the partition of the country. Specifically, the proposed project is designed to provide the Vietnamese government as well as MSU group with some sample data on population characteristics in urban districts most affected by recent immigration. These data should be useful for city planning and economic development. They should also be of use to those interested in the general character of the urbanization process. It attempts to find out: (1) what classes of people, and in what proportion, have moved to Saigon since the partition of the country; (2) the major motives for doing so; (3) the effects of urban immigration on the governmental, social, and economic structure of the city; (4) the occupations, skills, and employment of immigrants; (5) the major adjustments they have made to fit in to the general pattern of urban life, e.g., less in family cohesiveness, changing living standards etc. Wherever possible, attention would be given to the counterurbanization movement.

Refugees are not included in this study because they tend to be located in separate areas as separate groups, and are not really integrated with the city. Attention, therefore, would be solely on individual "migrants" who have become part of the community, and have been more or less integrated in that community.

The findings will be presented with some attempt to analyze and interpret the data, but the study is not designed as a problem solving or programming undertaking. It is hoped that this study will contribute something to the understanding of urbanization in general, and, in particular, be helpful to those with a special interest in current urban problems who are unable to conduct research on the spot.

SCOPE

(1) Administratively, Saigon has seven districts and a population of two million, Vietnamese as well as foreigners. An extensive study which embraces the whole city would be too difficult due to the lack of personnel and facilities. Therefore, the study unit selected would be a block (possibly two, if feasible) of each district with selected blocks drawn on a random sample basis. It will be a study of urbanization in the Saigon-Cholon area only, although cross-cultural comparisons with urbanization studies made in other countries may be useful in establishing some general similarities in the urbanization process.

(2) Specifically, attention would be centered on the following population characteristics: age distribution, job distribution, previous occupation, previous domiciles, length of residence, income according to spending units, education, job skills, family size, housing facilities, health facilities.

METHOD

(1) Background material will be gathered from published and unpublished sources to get acquainted with the area concerned. Personal contacts with different public and private groups such as the staff of the Faculty of Law, the National Institute of Statistics, NIA, and the officials of districts and prefecture administration will also be necessary.

(2) The interview technique will be used extensively in this type of study. An interview-guide will be used to facilitate the interviewing, but a great amount of flexibility would also be exercised to suit different circumstances. A pilot study would precede any extensive interview to test the significance of this interview-guide.

Since it is not feasible to interview everyone in the selected blocks, further random samples would be drawn from the population of the blocks.

PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS STUDY

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One special project officer and two full-time assistants would be needed. The assistants would help conduct interviews, gather background material and translate. Preferably, they should be students with an interest in sociological problems, and could possibly be drawn from the student body of NIA.

USEFULNESS TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The following government agencies may have interests in this study as indicated:

1. Department of Urban Planning and Reconstruction - for consideration of housing projects, city planning.
2. Department of Health and Sanitation - for information on health, sanitation conditions in the city, prevention of contagious diseases, expansion of hospitals and staff.
3. Department of National Economy - for income distribution data, price control data, and economic planning information.
4. Department of Education - for information relative to expansion of schools, creation of recreational centers, and evening classes for adults.
5. Directorate for Social Action - to help plan relief programs such as old-age pensions, orphanage requirements.
6. Police and Security Offices - for information relating to crime prevention, juvenile delinquency.
7. Municipal authorities - of use in the over-all administration of the city, including knowledge of housing conditions, local security, etc.