

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
East Lansing

Vietnam Project . Office of Coordinator

June 5, 1958

CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

June 24 to July 31, 1958

In an attempt to make more meaningful the experience of the several Vietnamese governmental officials who have been in the United States for study and observation in various areas of governmental finance administration, the Vietnam Project this summer is conducting a conference in which that experience will be reviewed and analyzed in light of the responsibilities to which they will return and of the kinds of problems to which these experiences may or may not afford greater insight. Working alongside the Vietnamese will be a number of professionally qualified Americans interested in Vietnam. We hope that by working together the Vietnamese and American members of the conference can isolate those parts of American practices and approaches which might be applicable to relevant problems in the administration of Vietnam. There should be the additional by-product of giving each of the participating members, both Vietnamese and Americans, understanding of the operations and problems of other financial areas other than their own, for instance, budget vis-a-vis tax administration, etc.

The conference will last from June 24 through July 31st. Except for the first week, when there will be three 2 hour meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 24th, 25th and 26th starting at 3:15 p.m., there will be two weekly 2 hour sessions starting at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. During the first week, each of the Vietnamese will be called on to present, in a very informal manner, their reflections on their experience of study, observation and training in the U.S., in light of their future roles in Vietnam. In his remarks it is hoped that the discussant also will briefly detail and evaluate what he would hope to continue to do for the remainder of his time in this country. In thinking about his remarks constant emphasis should be given to the realities of the situation that he, as an administrator, will face in Vietnam. In the second week a general picture of the overall financial and economic situation in Vietnam will be presented. For these discussions we hope to have Mr. Tran Kim Phuong, First Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Vietnamese Embassy present a paper on the economic problems of Vietnam; Mr. David C. Cole, former staff member of the Michigan State Group in Saigon, will consider the governmental financial area.

The remainder and heart of the meetings will be devoted to a series of reports planned and drafted by each of the Vietnamese who will be working with one of the American members of the group. On Thursday, June 26th these working relationships and the reports themselves will be discussed and established on the basis of the remarks of each of the Vietnamese in the previous two sessions. Generally speaking the reports will involve an intensive consideration of some problem or problems that the Vietnamese member will have to deal with upon his return. The report, for example, could not only result in proposals for solution, but might further consider the various obstacles that would stand in the way of implementation. These reports should take about an hour to deliver and will be followed by free and open discussion. This, it is hoped, will give, for instance, the governmental accountant an opportunity to present his problems to the other administrators in the finance areas so that they can understand what problems their procedures and practices create for him, and, of course, vice versa.

The last week of the conference will be devoted to a general discussion of what has been covered. This should also provide an opportunity for the Vietnamese to again discuss their tour in the United States in order that the Project can obtain some understanding for planning for future Vietnamese having, at any one time, together on campus or in the United States as large a group of Vietnamese from as high a level within their government. The Project hopes that this group will be able to indicate what gaps there have been in their respective programs while in the United States and what they would suggest to remedy such omissions. Further, to help for future planning the Project wants to learn, and it can only do so from the Vietnamese participants themselves, what portions of their programs have been of least value. The Vietnamese should also give some thought to whom of their own staff in Vietnam would benefit, from their bureau's point of view, from a well-planned tour in the United States.

During the period of the conference the Vietnamese members will be able to undertake regular university courses if they so desire; however, we hope to provide an opportunity for intensive interning within the relevant State of Michigan offices. In addition, there will be brief field trips so that the entire group can visit each of the state offices involved in governmental finances.

CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

June 24 - July 31, 1958

FIRST WEEK

Tuesday, June 24

Half hour discussions by Mr. Vinh, Mr. Thuan and Mr. Phuong on their experiences in the United States to date

Wednesday, June 25

Half hour discussions by Mr. Ngoc, Mr. Dao and Mr. Con on their experiences in the United States to date

Thursday, June 26

Entire group will plan working papers to be delivered in the third, fourth and fifth weeks

SECOND WEEK

Tuesday, July 1

Mr. Tran Kim Phuong, First Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Embassy, will discuss the economic situation in Vietnam.

Thursday, July 3

Mr. David Cole will discuss, in broad terms, governmental finances in Vietnam.

THIRD WEEK

Tuesday, July 8

Paper by Mr. Vinh followed by discussion

Thursday, July 10

Paper by Mr. Thuan followed by discussion

FOURTH WEEK

Tuesday, July 15

Paper by Mr. Phuong followed by discussion

Thursday, July 17

Paper by Mr. Con followed by discussion

FIFTH WEEK

Tuesday, July 22

Paper by Mr. Ngoc followed by discussion

Thursday, July 24

Paper by Mr. Dao followed by discussion

SIXTH WEEK

Tuesday, July 29

Review and Recapitulation

Thursday, July 31

Review and Recapitulation

All meetings will start at 3:15 p.m. and will be held in Room 42, Union Building.

CONFERENCE MEMBERS:

Mr. John Q. Adamson

Comptroller
Liquor Control Commission
State of Michigan

Accounting Consultant
MSUG
Vietnam
August-November, 1957

Mr. David C. Cole

Vietnam Project
MSU
East Lansing
1958

Public Finance
MSUG
Vietnam
1955-57

Mr. Frank B. Cliffe, Jr.

Asst. Professor
Department of Political Science
MSU
East Lansing

Vietnam Project
MSU
East Lansing
1957-58

Mr. Pham Phan Con

Chief,
Administrative Services
Direction of the Budget
Arrived in United States March, 1958

Mr. Huynh van Dao

Controller
Provincial and Municipal Budget
Budget Direction
Arrived in United States March, 1958

Mr. John Hunter

Acting Head
Department of Economics
MSU

MSUG
Vietnam
1955-56

Mr. Frank Landers

Director,
Budget Division
State of Michigan

Budget Consultant
MSUG
Vietnam
April-July 1956

Mr. Charles Lawrence

Associate Professor
Accounting
MSU

Mr. Richard Lindholm

Professor
Department of Economics
MSU
East Lansing

Public Finance
MSUG

Vietnam
1955-57

Mr. Phan Dinh Ngoc

Asst. Chief
Service of the Budget
Treasury Department
Arrived in United States January, 1958

Mr. Hoang Dinh Phuong

Organization and Methods Section
Direction of Budget
Arrived in United States January, 1958

Mr. Milton Taylor

Associate Professor
Economics Department
MSU

Tax Administration Consultant
Puerto Rico
1951-53

Mr. Nguyen Thuan

Director
Obligation Control Service
Budget Direction
Arrived in United States January, 1958

Mr. Vu Thien Vinh

Inspector of Taxation in General
Direction of Taxation
Arrived in United States September, 1957