

MEMORANDUM

October 13, 1955

TO: C.C.Killingsworth

FROM: S.K.Sheinbaum

SUBJECT: Dependants of Vietnam Project participants in the United States.

a/ The Housing Office says that it most probably would be able to supply barracks housing for Mr. Lan, his wife and two infant children, as well as for Mr. Nghi and his wife. They guarantee nothing. In the event, however, that these participants are able to obtain campus housing (cost: from \$30 to \$40 monthly) they will have to buy their own furniture.

b/ Off-campus housing is considerably more expensive. A fair room for a single student costs about \$45 monthly; a double room goes for around \$50 to \$60. I have watched the market closely, and I've seen no unfurnished apartments for under \$80 (and that one was in poor condition). The lowest unfurnished apartment I've seen in the listings was at \$90; there are any number ranging from \$115 on up. In general, however, the off-campus picture is one of very short supply.

c/ In an experience this summer at Stanford University with foreign personnel of this sort it was found that the presence of wives alone did not in any case take the participant away from his work. However, in two instances cases of wives and children (infant) did to a significant degree draw the participant from his work. In one of these instances it was estimated that the participant had to forego almost 25% of the training. Further, the staff's burden became greater since they had to help out in finding not only apartments, but such varied items as baby-buggies. I draw these points to your attention inasmuch as they became quite an issue in our communications with Washington. I urge that the problem be made aware to the Vietnamese (Mr. Lan) if the final decision is to rest with him.

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY TEAM

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU - USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON - VIETNAM

15 October, 1955

GENERAL OFFICE: 1ST FLOOR  
26 DUONG GIA-LONG  
(EX LAGRANDIÈRE)

CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528

Professor Charles. C. Killingsworth  
Office of the Coordinator  
Vietnam Project  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Professor Killingsworth:

Participant program developments of the past two weeks are as follows:

The following persons on the list I sent you September 28 have been dropped for the reasons indicated:

- Tran Quang NHI (No. 6). Had been accepted by the Presidency but his superiors refused to release him at the present time.
- Cao Huu HUAN (No. 13). Dropped for same reason.
- Tran Van HUONG (No. 17). Had been accepted conditionally by us because of English limitations. On re-examination a month later, his progress had been insufficient to encourage the hope that he would be able to keep up with course work.
- Tran VUNG (No. 20). Was in same category as Huong; dropped for same reason.

On the other hand, the following persons on the same list have now received definite approval from both us and the VN Government:

- Tran Van MINH (No. 4). His English showed marked improvement upon re-examination; he should have little difficulty by January.
- Buu NGHI (No. 5). Definitely approved by VN Government October 10.
- Nguyen DIEN (No. 11). Definitely approved by VN Gov't. October 10.
- Duong NGUYEN (No. 15). Definitely approved by VN Gov't. October 10.
- Tran Phuoc THANH (No. 19). His English had improved enough by October 3 to lead me to believe he will be able to handle the work. Still far from perfect, however.

The four people whom I listed as "possibles" September 28 (Hoang The HUAN, no. 2, Than Thi THANH, no. 7, Vu Thi TIN, no. 8, and Do Lenh TUAN, no. 9) are now in the "probable" category. These are non-civil servants, and for some time the Government flatly opposed including non-civil servants, except for one other (Tran Van MINH) who had been nominated by the Government itself in their first list. The solution we reached is based on an agreement which these people will sign whereby they must place themselves at the disposition of the Government to become civil servants upon their return, but the Government retains the freedom to accept or reject them as it sees fit. The processing of all of these people was begun as soon as this agreement was reached so as to save time; they had long since completed all the necessary forms. The

October 15, 1955

Government has yet to approve them individually, and we thus may lose one or two of them.

This brings the present list to twelve definitely confirmed and four probables. In addition there are the two persons about whom Ed Weidner wrote to you earlier, who had been selected by Joe Starr in his program but who had specifically requested Michigan State. If we can carry them in our program (including orientation and any other special courses and field trips set up for our group) they will be supported by Starr's budget and will not affect our quota.

Two of our people, as you know, have requested to bring along their wives (and one of these wants to bring two children also) at their own expense. Both of these have asked if it would be possible for their wives to enroll, one in the Department of Home Management and Child Development and the other in the Department of Textiles, Clothing, and Related Arts. I told them it would not be possible to enroll them before they arrived at MSU, particularly as they will probably have to be enrolled as special students. In order to obtain passports and to transfer dollars to the U.S., however, they say they need some sort of written statement from the University. I wonder then if you could have someone contact these two departments and ask them for a letter saying whatever they feel they can say in advance about accepting these two wives, providing they come to the States, meet the requirements for admission to the departments as special students (or even as auditors), etc.? Mrs. Buu NGHI wants Home Management and Child Development, and Mrs. Nguyen Quoc LAN wants Textiles, Clothing, and Related Arts.

With respect to the financial arrangements for the participants we are sending, we have followed the standard USOM practice. Participants have been informed that they will receive \$12.00 per diem while traveling within the U.S. and \$8.00 per diem while they are located at Michigan State--in addition to the other benefits for which the budget provides: tuition, book allowance, etc. Their international travel will be paid for here in piasters, but they receive no per diem allowance for international travel. We will therefore obligate \$100.00 for each participant to take along with him as advance per diem, and this amount should be deducted from their per diem allowances after they arrive. Actually, the budget allowance of \$5000 per participant appears to me to be liberal enough so that there would be no budgetary reason for deducting this \$100.00. This and other questions related to their dollar budget expenditures and allowances are of course questions to be decided at East Lansing.

As we have indicated in previous communications, it would be impossible to get more than seven of the participants to East Lansing by November 21. Judging from the dates on which visa applications were submitted, twelve could get there by December 1, and the remaining four December 10. We could probably send Joe Starr's two extras along with the first group. I think this would not seriously penalize the remaining four, as their English is already adequate. But if it is necessary that they all arrive simultaneously, then the only alternative would seem to be to hold all of

Prof. Killingsworth

-3-

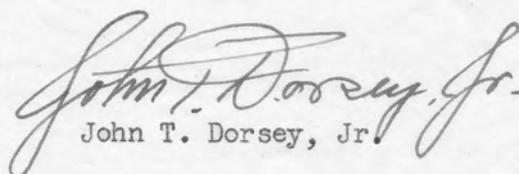
October 15, 1955

them until December 10.

We have just learned of an orientation course which is being planned by U.S. Information Service for participants going to the States. It will run from October 31 to November 14 for two hours a day, and will include language training and practice as well as lectures and advice. We are taking immediate steps to have as many of our people as possible attend this orientation, which should help take the sting out of the delayed U.S. arrival dates. As I understand it, this will not affect our budget.

We will continue to keep you posted on developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John T. Dorsey, Jr." The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'J' and 'D'.

John T. Dorsey, Jr.

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY TEAM

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU - USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON - VIETNAM

GENERAL OFFICE: 1st FLOOR  
26 DUONG GIA-LONG  
(EX LAGRANDIÈRE)

CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528

Office of Chief Advisor

October 18, 1955

To: Dr. Charles C. Killingsworth, Coordinator  
From: Dr. Edward W. Weidner, Chief Advisor  
Subject: Attached Memoranda from John Dorsey and Homer Higbee

The memoranda from John Dorsey and Homer Higbee are largely self-explanatory except in regard to some of the dollar expenditures relative to the participant program. Participants get no per diem for traveling until they arrive in the United States, however, <sup>(i.e. U.S.)</sup> that may be defined. On the other hand, standard USOM practice is \$12. a day while traveling within the United States and \$8. while located at Michigan State. It is also standard practice for USOM to issue a hundred dollars to each of its participants before leaving as an advance on their per diem.

We would like to do the same for our participants. Therefore, we need some way of getting about \$1600. out here immediately. USOM, through its Controller's Office, has agreed to issue the checks if our Comptroller's Office will approve. An alternative procedure would be for East Lansing to make out a dollar check in this amount and Homer could then turn it into sixteen individual checks, or since you have the names, you may wish to make out the checks immediately and forward them to us.

In any event you can see that the \$100. is going to be a great surplus of their traveling per diem and will actually apply to their East Lansing per diem for quite a few days. Your immediate advice by cable would be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edward W. Weidner  
Chief Advisor

EWV:jd

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO : Mr. E. W. Weidner

DATE : October 18, 1955

FROM : H. D. Higbee *HDH*

SUBJECT : Procedure for prociding Participants \$100 advance per diem.

George Moore, Chief Accountant, USOM/ Saigon suggests that East Lansing advise USOM/ Saigon of the amount of money they have set aside for the purpose of advancing per diem allowances to Vietnamese participants going to MSU for study. Upon receipt of such advice Mr. Moore will write dollar checks in the amount of \$100 per participant and send an " Advice of charge " to east Lansing and ICA/W.

I am certain this is the better of the alternatives previously discussed and recommend we request East Lansing transmit this information and authorization.

December 8, 1955

Mr. Paul V. Rumpsa, Chief Accountant  
Comptroller Office  
204E Administration Building  
Campus

Dear Mr. Rumpsa:

This is to notify you that the out-of-state tuition fees and the regular tuitions fees for our Vietnam participants are to be collected from Account No. 31-3855 and charged as follows:

Contract II C  
Appendix I, U.S. Dollar Costs -  
Participant Program I.

The participants are to register in the regular registration January 5-7 and April 2-4. Their names are as follows:

Hoang The HUAN  
Mrs. Than Thi THANH  
Tran Phuoc THANH  
Nguyen Thanh DO  
Nguyen Quoc LAN

Duong NGUYEN  
Nguyen DIEN  
Truong Ngoc GIAU  
Miss Truong Hoang LEM  
Buu NGHI

Sincerely yours,

L. E. Traywick  
Assistant Coordinator

LET/dcm

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD STOP AT SCHOLARSHIP DESK

# Inter-Department Correspondence

MEMORANDUM

Date December 7, 1955To Dr. Lee TraywickFrom Mr. Gerald KnappSubject Vietnam Project  
Account No. 31-3855

I discussed the method of payment of fees for the Vietnamese Students with Mr. Rumpsa this morning. He recommended that an ~~author-ization~~ *letter* be sent to him before each term for the authorization to charge the above account for the names of the students on the list.

It would be in order to submit an authorization for the present term and the winter term at this time.

A copy of this authorization could be sent to Mr. Stephens for the file in this office.

GK:bf

CC:Stephens

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Gerald F. Knapp*

C  
O  
P  
Y

December 16, 1955

Mr. Merrill R. Pierson  
204C Administration Building  
Campus

Dear Mr. Pierson:

This is to authorize the MSU Comptroller to deduct from the living allowance of the Vietnam participants the sum of \$3.09 per month or 10¢ per day for their health and accident insurance coverage that is to be paid to the International Cooperation Administration in Washington for foreign nationals who participate in the technical exchange program.

These amounts are to be sent to ICA/W in the form of a check made payable to the Treasurer of the United States. A statement should accompany the check, listing by name the participants covered, the period covered, and the amount submitted for each.

Our office will see to it that the necessary forms are filled out and sent to ICA/W. We will also forward the check each month to Mrs. Willie G. Brock, Assistant Chief, Program Services Staff, ICA/W.

Sincerely yours,

L. E. Traywick  
Assistant Coordinator

LET/dcm

cc: P. V. Rumpsa  
G. F. Knapp