

December 10, 1958

TO: Stanley K. Sheinbaum  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Participant Training

In addition to the switches evident in the conversations held between Mr. Trach and Mr. Waltman in Saigon concerning the areas of specialization of Messrs. Hung and Son, we are running across continuous difficulties in dealing with the programs of the current group of Vietnamese who arrived in September. On the face of it we have been requested to give training in specific fields which do not seem to fit either the position in Vietnam of the individual nor do they agree with their conception of what they came here for. Let's take specific examples of the problems we are encountering:

Mr. Pham Quang Pham was originally sent here with the possible idea in mind of studying for his MA in Economics. Due to the desire of his superiors in the bank, we switched his program from a whole year on campus to one quarter on campus and three-quarters in the field of in-service training at the First National Bank in New York City and also the shorter periods at the International Monetary Fund and Bank in Washington.

As regards Mr. Hoang Van Loc, we were requested to give him training in ~~one system~~ and methods. Waltman's memo of July 31 stated that he had a very firm grasp of what was involved in operations and methods. When he was offered the opportunity of going to Washington to attend the administrative management program to be conducted by ICA, he demurred and said he would prefer to stay here on campus. Of course, he had only arrived a few days earlier and must have felt somewhat at a loss particularly when confronted with the insecurity of going to a strange city and being more or less on his own. In talking with Mr. Loc he says that he does not know what operations and methods is. His position in Vietnam is chief of the documentation services at the Ministry of Information. His particular area of responsibility is scanning the newspapers and magazines from Communist areas and preparing anti-Communist propaganda for dissemination in Vietnam. To serve both purposes he has been taking a general background course in public administration and a management course given in the business school, plus two courses in communism. He does not feel that his particular position, nor does he know of any plans in a change of position which would justify the next nine months on organization and methods. It would see much more appropriate to give him additional training in communications as the general field of knowledge which is of major concern to him. We are proposing to keep him on campus for one additional quarter to take communications course, plus the office management course which is the most practical and elementary approach to organizational methods.

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Mr. Vinh Tho was sent to us for training in personnel administration and he was duly enrolled for the courses suggested by Saigon. In addition he arrived two weeks late due to a stopover in Tokyo at the specific request of the Presidency, for which to date we have no specific report. He had indicated that Mr. Trach sent him a personal letter with instructions to attend courses in international relations at Georgetown University. He seems most anxious to get out of East Lansing and go to Washington, whether or not we are in agreement about his attendance at Georgetown University.

Mr. Le Dinh Chan was sent to us for training in the field of research and observation of teaching methods. As far as we can see, we are having a repeat of Mr. Tran Van Kien, in so far as the attitude displayed by Mr. Chan. He very blithely this morning just repeated that he would do some work on the proposed paper for Mr. Gabis but that he really has just come to look and is not interested in doing any great amount of work, whether it might consist of translation of English to Vietnamese of Frank Schiff's article, or any other considerable amount of work. This all came about in a conversation between Dr. Chan and Dr. Street, our English instructor, who suggested the only way to perfect his pronunciation would be through hard, intensive work.

The general feeling I have is that there is a long gap between what Saigon originally proposes, what we assume they have prepared the participants for, what the participant is willing to do once in the States, and the various changes proposed by people on the basis of their own desires or the desires of their superiors in Vietnam. In cases such as Mr. Chan and Mr. Tho, this is even more acute due to the injunction for delicate handling of these specific individuals.

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