

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE • EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

November 23, 1956

Director of Information
Office of the General Manager
Tennessee Valley Authority
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

We are planning a study-observation tour for a group of nineteen ICA participants from Viet-Nam who are at MSU for nine months in connection with our Viet-Nam project. Starting from East Lansing, they will visit Boston, New York, and Washington. We would then like to schedule a visit to Knoxville to see the central organization and as much of the various programs as is possible of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Would it be possible for them to come there on December 18 and stay until the 22nd? We have found that we could schedule their arrival for 11:05 a. m. on American Airlines flight 401 on the 18th, and their departure at 10:20 a. m. on Delta 434 on the 22nd, if these times would be convenient for such TVA personnel as would be involved in talking with them and showing them around. We can also arrange hotel accommodations at the Andrew Johnson.

The group would be travelling with Mr. Robert Carle, one of our graduate assistants who has been working with them this fall. They all speak English adequately enough to do without interpreters. They are all government employees, many in fairly responsible positions in the Vietnamese administration. Three primary interests are represented: about a third are studying general public administration, a little over a third are in economics and finance, and the remainder are in police administration. Although the training program of the latter group is not directly related to the kind of activities engaged in by TVA, we feel that the administrative knowledge and imagination of all of them would be much stimulated by observation of TVA administrative organization and program methods. I think two aspects of TVA administration would be particularly beneficial and interesting to them: the involvement of local citizens and groups in developing and carrying out TVA programs, and the experiences of TVA in internal administrative decentralization. More generally, we would simply like to have them see one of the better examples of the management of an American public agency.

Director of Information, TVA, November 23, 1956

Because I spent a year not long ago as a research contractor at TVA, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to a friend in the Personnel Division, although she may not be involved in the orientation of this group.

We hope that this visit can be arranged without inconvenience, and we shall look forward to hearing from you or your staff about it.

Sincerely,

John T. Dorsey, Jr.
Assistant Coordinator

JTD:jb

cc: ✓ Dr. Eugene Dvorin, Viet-Nam
Participant Director
Miss Elinor Carr, Personnel
Division, TVA