

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING

VIETNAM PROJECT · OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

September 3, 1959

Telephone Conversation with Stan Sheinbaum, September 3, 1959, from New York

Re Rundlett

Gabis: Have been working with Smuckler on official business thing. Should get termination date as soon as possible. Call from Washington to investigate Rundlett's file. The whole thing boils down that Smuckler wants Rundlett to have 10 days and you indicated 17 days. Quoted cable S-12. Grider doesn't want to get into the middle of this - quoted what Grider had said, first part.

Sheinbaum: That's right.

Gabis: Grider says that the Chief Advisor's interpretation should be given considerable weight.

Sheinbaum: That's a lot of nonsense. I don't remember why exactly that the ten days was changed to 17, except that he was coming to East Lansing to discuss the police communications project with us from Maine and that he needed four or five days in Denver and days in Puerto Rico and there had to be travel time in between. Smuckler's ten days was unrealistic if he expected Rundlett to go all these places. Quite sure Smuckler did not allow any time for East Lansing trip. I wanted Rundlett to come to East Lansing for the communications project and also for de-briefing. Grider's all wet, and Smuckler doesn't know about all these things that Rundlett did while he was here.

Gabis: If we're to pare down the 17 days to ten, we'll have to pare down his expenses. However, I feel that if your commitment to Rundlett was for 17 days, that is what we should give him.

Sheinbaum: The only thing that needs be done is for you to reconstruct the 17 days, giving dates, how long was spent in East Lansing, Denver, Puerto Rico and then he had to go back to Maine. Reconstruct the dates. I was aware of Rundlett's manuevering and was prepared for it. Smuckler doesn't know the details from this end. Do you have the July 28 memo to Griffin? Rundlett has to be knocked down for these days in the first paragraph. I think it comes to seven days.

Gabis: They want a replacement for Hemmye out there in Spring, 1960. Re the compassionate leave - what about relevance.

Sheinbaum: It weakens our position rather than strengthening it. As far as the 17 days it was figured out in terms of all the travel. I don't see how you can get around this. I don't care what Saigon says.

I think you should write a letter to Smuckler in response to his cable - more to get it into the record than for his information. Tell him that you've spoken with Sheinbaum and fully considered his ten day recommendation, but wanted the 17 days because wanted him to come to East Lansing for police communications talks and for de-briefing instructions and because I recognized he needed time in Puerto Rico, etc. and ten days was insufficient.

Gabis: He ran up quite a bill in Chicago for hotel charges.

Sheinbaum: If I remember right, those days were over the week-end and he told me that they would be on his own time and expense, because I didn't want to cover the Chicago expenses. Also, he said he was going to share hotel accommodations with Liem and get a double and would only charge us for the single rate. Knock him down on that basis. He said he would pay the double rate and charge Liem for the difference between the single and double rates. Think he's trying to get money from both Liem and us for these charges.

Re Hendry

Gabis: Hildreth called and wondered about an office for Hendry. I suggested he take mine, how do you feel about this?

Sheinbaum: Think it's foolish, because Hendry would be too far away from the Department, but I'm amenable to this. It's hard for me to say here because I don't know what's happening there.

STG/ap