

TO: Howard Waltman  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
DATE: August 24, 1959  
SUBJECT: Kim Sa # 266

Please find enclosed Kim Sa's itinerary.

Needless to say she was very disappointed to have such a short time in which to return to Vietnam. It seemed only humane to allow her a few days in Tokyo and Manila, particularly as she had hoped to visit some libraries in Tokyo and the University of the Philippines in Manila.

Kim Sa was obviously worn out from the constant pressure not only of summer school, but of the courses she took while at Western Reserve. As it was, she arrived here Wednesday, August 19th, and left Friday evening, August 21st. Between obtaining the cholera booster, the necessary Health Department stamp, income tax clearance and her tickets in addition to repacking books and clothes, she had no time to rest here either.

Please find enclosed her application to the University of the Philippines which I did not forward and my reply to their letter.

EC:kcc

Encl.

TO: Guy Fox  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
DATE: June 6, 1960  
SUBJECT: Training of Miss Tran Thi Kim-Sa - Re: Your Letter to Rector Vu Quoc Thong — #512

When Julie Heymann passed through East Lansing last month she mentioned that during her stay on the east coast someone from the Indiana University Library School had indicated that an inquiry had been made concerning Miss Tran Thi Kim-Sa's admission to Indiana University. She gave me the impression that they had not definitely accepted Kim-Sa yet and asked me if we had processed the papers. I replied that this was the first inkling I had that Kim-Sa would be returning to the United States and I was somewhat surprised as it has always been the procedure in the past to process such state-side applications through this office.

Julie Heymann and I then discussed the commitment which had been made to Kim-Sa for study at the University of the Philippines to complete her degree. Frankly, we both disapprove of any change in plans which would enable Kim-Sa to return to the United States while only allowing Miss Tang Thi Ti to go to the Philippines for her degree. During the 16 months that Miss Ti was at the National Institute of Administration library prior to departing for the Philippines, she did sufficient work under the guidance of Richard Gardner to allow her to enter the University program at an advanced level. If anyone should have been allowed to return to the United States, it seems to me that our first responsibility would have been to Miss Ti.

As to the last paragraph in your letter about Miss Kim-Sa's recall to Vietnam, I might remind you that she finally arrived home only some two to three weeks earlier than she would have under the original program. Although I know Miss Kim-Sa is intelligent and hard working, I frankly have some doubts about her motivation, and Julie agrees with me on this subject.

# THE ASIA FOUNDATION

550 Kearny Street, San Francisco 8, California • YUkon 2-4640

June 20, 1960

Miss Elsie Cunningham  
Vietnam Project  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Elsie:

Thanks for your letter and the memo to Guy Fox regarding Kim Sa. Although in general I concur with your memo, I should like to point out that the reasons for my favoring Kim Sa's going to the Philippines are not related to Miss Tang Thi Ti having studied there, but because I generally feel that Kim Sa would be able to obtain her degree there in a much shorter time than if she would continue her training in the U.S. Since we are anxious to have librarians trained as soon as possible, it seems to me that the time involved for her in getting her degree is important. The cost of training in the Philippines would be much less than in the U.S. Naturally, I recognize that a degree from the United States is considered better than a degree from the Philippines, and this may be Kim Sa's only strong argument. But MSUG should consider these other factors, which I have pointed out many times.

I am again temporarily with The Asia Foundation as Program Officer for Pakistan, but only for the summer. I am sorry that I won't see you here. Regards to Jim and all, and I hope to have some news soon on that lost check about which I wrote Jim. Let me know what has been decided on Kim Sa --- that operator, and how is Ti doing.

Sincerely,

*Julie*  
Juliane M. Heyman

Good luck in your  
job hunting.

JPM

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON — VIETNAM  
CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBU

GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR  
TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
SAIGON: 383 - 384

June 20, 1960

TO: Elsie Cunningham  
FROM: Guy H. Fox *G.H.F.*  
SUBJECT: Training of Miss Tran Thi Kim-Sa

RECEIVED  
JUN 24 1960  
MICH. STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM PROJECT

Sometime ago the position was taken by the Public Administration Division and confirmed by the Chief Advisor that there would be definite advantages in sending Miss Kim-Sa to the United States rather than to the Philippines, provided she could obtain a degree from a quality university within two years, the same length of time required at the University of the Philippines. I regret very much that you apparently were not kept informed of our thinking on the matter; our only excuse, and admittedly it is a lame one, is that there was no overall surveillance of the participant program at the time.

At any rate, before making the commitment to send Miss Kim-Sa to an American university, we wanted to be certain that she could obtain a degree there in two years. Therefore, Dr. Child wrote to 12 or 15 universities to ascertain whether or not she could receive an American degree within the same time limit required by the University of the Philippines. Among the universities to which he wrote was the University of Indiana, which answered that she would be able to obtain a Bachelors degree within two years. These letters of Dr. Child were not applications for admission; they were inquiries of the time necessary for a degree. At the request of Dr. Child, Miss Kim-Sa has just filled in the application forms and submitted them to the University of Indiana. Dr. Child informed me that in view of the limited time available for processing Miss Kim-Sa, he believed it best to have her send in the forms directly to the university. He also said he believed this action would save your office some time and trouble; and provided you were notified immediately (as you now are), there could be no possible inconvenience to you. In the future, however, we shall certainly make every effort to process all participant applications through your office.

When we first received information from the University of Indiana and other American universities that Miss Kim-Sa could receive her

degree within two years, we informed Mr. Thong at that juncture that we were willing to send her to an American university, and we mentioned specifically the University of Indiana since it was the best university from which we had received a definite answer.

We do not believe it profitable to speculate on what our responsibility should have been to Miss Ti. For the same reasons, as I shall list below, I believe Miss Kim-Sa should be sent to the United States, I also believe it might have been desirable to also send Miss Ti to an American university, although of course I do not know all the factors which went into the decision to send her to the Philippines. At any rate we are interested in providing an NIA librarian the best possible training and enhancing her competence as much as possible. After careful consideration we believe the best interests of the NIA would be served by sending her to the U.S.

We do not share your doubts on Miss Kim-Sa's motivation and we do not believe that they could possibly be based on any recent information or knowledge of her work since assuming the position as acting head librarian. Dr. Child, who has daily contacts with her, has consistently praised her work. Also, I have been highly pleased with the effectiveness with which she has handled the library. Both Rector Thong and Vice Rector Dang have commended her efficiency with the library. Moreover, Mrs. Dorothy Robb, a highly trained U.S. librarian with a Masters degree in Library Science, now working under contract with MSUG, shares the unanimously high opinion held here of Miss Kim-Sa. As you undoubtedly know, while at Western Reserve as a special student, Miss Kim-Sa although officially eligible only for Sophomore work, took all graduate courses and compiled a splendid record of A's and B's.

There are several reasons why we believe it preferable for her to attend an American university. Library Science is developed to a far greater extent in the U.S. than it is in the Philippines, and teachers are far more advanced in knowledge and teaching methods. In the U.S. she would have opportunities to become acquainted with many various types of libraries, to visit world famous libraries, and to observe a number of establishments devoted to experiments in and the development of Library Science. In the U.S. there are many seminars for library students (such as the seminar in Comparative Librarianship held at Columbia University last summer); these seminars enable students from all over the world to exchange ideas and experiences. Also, in the U.S. she would be able to attend the conferences of the American Library Association and other meetings which would broaden her knowledge. Finally, a greater value is attached in Vietnam to an American degree than to a Philippines degree. This would be advantageous not only to Miss Kim-Sa but also it would lend more respect to the NIA library within educational circles. In short, by going to the U.S. Miss

Kim-Sa would obtain broader, more helpful, education and experience which would make her a more competent librarian and thus of greater value to the NIA library. In reviewing our files on Miss Kim-Sa, I note in a letter dated November 2, 1959, that Julian Heyman lists some hours over a two-weeks period during which Miss Kim-Sa did not spend full-time in the library. During this period--apparently Miss Kim-Sa's first two weeks of employment--Miss Kim-Sa was working several hours a day for the Ministry of Interior. Undoubtedly to a large extent Miss Heyman's adverse ~~information~~ ~~and~~ opinion of Miss Kim-Sa was formed during this two week period. For this reason perhaps it is appropriate to compare Miss Kim-Sa's behavior with that of Miss Ti during Miss Ti's first two weeks. Although Miss Ti went on the NIA payroll as of June 1 and was scheduled to begin work at the NIA on June 1, she simply did not report on that date and in fact no one at the NIA--MSUG or Institute officials--had any knowledge of her whereabouts or why she failed to report. Finally, about June 7 she came to the NIA and announced that she intended to rest until June 13 on which date she would begin work. On June 13 she did not show up and again NIA officials said they had received no explanation from her. On June 14, quite late in the morning, she reported for the first time for duty, with no explanation for her previous absence. However, Miss Ti is now on the job and thus far she has impressed everyone here quite favorably. We believe she is quite competent and highly motivated. In the event her performance lives up to expectations you may rest assured we will do everything possible to promote her interest. After Miss Kim-Sa returns from the States there is some possibility of sending Miss Ti away for a Masters degree, but that will depend on several matters, including her performance and the availability of participant months.

In view of the fact that we do not have anyone on our staff who is familiar with participant affairs, we will be very glad to receive any suggestions which you will be kind to send us.

Finding it difficult to believe that Miss Kim-Sa would deliberately and arbitrarily shirk her duties at the library as indicated by Miss Heyman's memo, I checked into the matter. I found that Vice Rector Dang assigned Miss Kim Sa temporarily on a part-time basis to the Department of Information. In other words, while she was away from the library working with the Department of Information, she was following Institute orders.

June 28, 1960

TO: Guy H. Fox  
FROM: Ruben V. Austin  
SUBJECT: Training of Miss Tran Thi Kim-Sa

We are aware of the various conditions surrounding the selection of Miss Tran Thi Kim-Sa. We appreciate the fact that Indiana University has a program which is acceptable and which will be beneficial.

Naturally, we shall be glad to help. We are very happy that Dr. Child has taken the interest in this case which he has. We feel that you have investigated the case as thoroughly as possible, and there is no reason why at this stage we should be critical of your position.

*Elmer*

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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED  
JUL 7 1960  
MICH. STATE UNIVERSITY  
VIETNAM PROJECT

TO: Elsie Cunningham  
FROM: Frank Child *Jfb*  
SUBJECT: Tran Thi Kim Sa

DATE: June 30, 1960

I believe that Guy Fox's letter of June 20th brings you up to date on Kim Sa. I am enclosing copies of my correspondence with Indiana University. The initial letter of inquiry was sent to fifteen different schools. We received encouragement only from Indiana and Western Reserve.

When Indiana sent the application forms to me I had Kim Sa go ahead and complete her application for admission as a B.A. candidate with a major in political science or general social science and a minor in library science. Since Kim Sa will be able to meet the foreign language requirement in French, it should take three or four semesters for her to earn her degree.

We have initiated the processing of Kim Sa in anticipation of her acceptance at Indiana. We can go no further however, until we receive a definite acceptance. If she is to arrive in the States in time for fall classes, such acceptance must be received in Saigon by August 15 at the latest. If you know of any way to prod the Indiana admissions office without irritating them, please do so.

Western Reserve was the only other school to offer much encouragement. Dean Shera of the Library School forwarded her papers to their admissions office. To date however, we have received no further word from Western Reserve. It would be helpful to have an alternative to Indiana. Perhaps a letter from you to their admissions office would elicit some response.

Encls.

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TO: Frank Child  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Miss Tran Thi Kim Sa # 525  
DATE: July 8, 1960

In response to your memorandum of June 30th concerning Kim Sa's admission for the Fall Semester, please find enclosed copies of the letters I have written to Indiana and Western Reserve. If no response is received by the 20th, I shall call and make a further attempt to follow up.

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

MAILING ADDRESS: MSU-USOM  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
SAIGON — VIETNAM  
CABLE ADDRESS: MICHGOVBUR

GENERAL OFFICE:  
137, DUONG PASTEUR  
TELEPH. NUMBER: 22.022 - 21.528  
SAIGON: 3 8 3 - 3 8 4

July 21, 1960

TO: Ruben V. Austin  
FROM: Frank C. Child *JBL*  
SUBJECT: Miss Kim Sa



Will your office take responsibility for reserving a dormitory room at Indiana University for Miss Kim Sa? I have requested that they send you the necessary application forms.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the Indiana Registrar.

FCC:je

1122

July 8, 1960

Mr. William H. Strain  
Associate Registrar for Admissions  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Mr. Strain:

At the request of Professor Frank C. Child of the Michigan State University Group in Saigon I am writing to see if there is any further information you need in processing the application of Miss Tran Thi Kim Sa. It is possible for us to seek such information not only through the letters that we send regularly to Saigon but also by cable contact. Therefore, if there are any pending problems which we could assist in solving, please do not hesitate to contact us either by letter or by phone.

We do appreciate all your help in processing Miss Kim Sa's application.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director  
Vietnam Project.

cc: Dr. Frank C. Child  
MSUG - Box 34  
APO 143, S.F., Cal.

Dr. Ruben Austin

July 12, 1960

D. F. Aschom

Participant - Miss Tran Thi Kim Sa

Indiana University has informed Dr. Child that Miss Kim Sa has been admitted to Indiana University in the College of Arts and Sciences for the purpose of completing undergraduate work in Library Science.

The academic year begins September 13, 1960. Since Miss Kim Sa has been to the United States before, we will plan to send her direct to Indiana University unless we hear otherwise from you. She will arrive on, or about, September 12.

Due to a change in procedure here within the Consular Section of the Embassy, it is necessary that we have the Form DSF-66 well in advance of her departure. We therefore request that this form be completed and forwarded to us soonest.

cc F. Child  
Kim Sa File

MSUG - Box 34  
APO 143  
San Francisco, California

July 21, 1960



Mr. William H. Strain  
Associate Registrar for Admissions  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Mr. Strain:

We were very pleased to get your letter telling us that Miss Kim Sa has been admitted to Indiana University.

Michigan State will complete all arrangements necessary for Kim Sa to arrive in Bloomington in time for fall classes. She is tentatively scheduled to arrive there September 12. It will not be necessary for you to issue either a form I-20 or a form DSP-66. We can take care of all these arrangements.

Kim Sa would like to live in a dormitory on campus. I assume that it is necessary to make advance application. If so, would you please send the necessary forms to the office of the Coordinator, Vietnam Project, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. This office normally handles all administrative and financial matters for our scholarship students in the States. Incidentally, it is this office which will provide payment for Miss Kim Sa's tuition and maintenance allowance.

As I said, we have completed all processing necessary for Miss Kim Sa's departure for the States. This applies only to MSU arrangements. Thus far we have not received official approval of Miss Kim Sa's scholarship from the Government of Vietnam. While I expect no difficulty in this matter, there is an outside chance that her trip could be disapproved. I will notify you immediately of the Government's decision which should be forthcoming shortly.

We appreciate the consideration that you have given to Miss Kim Sa and trust that you will find her a useful addition to your student body.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Coordinator - Vietnam  
Project, MSU

Frank C. Child

July 8, 1960

Mr. Hollace G. Roberts  
Director of Admissions  
Flora Stone Mather College  
Western Reserve University  
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Some time ago Dean Jesse H. Shera forwarded to your office for consideration the records of Miss Tran Thi Kim Sa who was enrolled at the Library School during the academic year, 1958-59. Our correspondence from Saigon indicates that they have received no word from your office concerning Miss Kim Sa's request for admission for the coming academic year. They are most anxious to have some further word as it is absolutely essential to have her acceptance by August 15 if she is to arrive in time for the beginning of Fall Term.

Any information you may be able to give us would certainly be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham  
Participant Director  
Vietnam Project

cc: Dr. Frank C. Child  
MSUG - Box 34  
APO 143, S.F., Cal.

TO: Lloyd Musolf  
FROM: Elsie Cunningham  
SUBJECT: Kim Sa's Application to Western Reserve  
DATE: July 22, 1960

In reply to the letter I sent to Western Reserve on July 8 concerning the status of Kim Sa's request for admission I received a telephone call from Mr. Trevathan of Western Reserve. He briefly gave me the information which had been included in their reply to Kim Sa after indicating that a copy had been sent to Frank Child. Unfortunately they did not seem to know of the existence of this office prior to my letter and so had not kept us as well as Saigon informed. Presumably Dean Shera and other members of the School of Library Science recall that it was this office that was concerned with making the arrangements for Kim Sa but I do not suppose that other parts of the university would have known this as well.

In any case Mr. Trevathan indicated that it would take Kim Sa at least two and half years to complete her undergraduate degree at Western Reserve as most of her credits from the University of the Philippines would be lost. I would hope that an exact estimate of the credits she will need to complete her degree at Indiana University would be obtained at the earliest possible time.

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator      DATE: August 4, 1960  
FROM : Dr. Lloyd D. Musolf, Chief Advisor *LDM*  
SUBJECT: Kim Sa

Whether Kim Sa gets to the United States under a renewed library program is going to be a nip-and-tuck matter. The Planning Directorate exhibited a lack of understanding of the reasons for sending Kim Sa to the States again. We have written a letter of justification, which the NIA is employing along with a letter of its own in dealing with the Director of Plan. I have been trying to see Secretary of State Thuan about a favorable decision at the Presidency on Kim Sa, but in the last week or two I have been experiencing great difficulty in seeing him. Although we have regularly scheduled English lessons he has been too busy to meet with me. We shall keep trying, however.

LDM/dw



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## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Dr. Ruben Austin DATE: September 13, 1960

FROM : Administrative Services *✓*

SUBJECT: Itinerary for Miss Kim Sa

Miss Tran Thi Kim Sa's reservations have been confirmed and she is scheduled to leave Saigon for Bloomington, Indiana, on Thursday, September 15. Itinerary is enclosed.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BOX 70

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

September 20, 1960

Dr. Ruben V. Austin, Assistant Dean  
College of Business and Public Service  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Ruben:

Now that classes have begun I am sure that the only time I shall see Kim Sa in the future is when I call her and ask her to do a specific thing at a specific time. As you probably have already gathered from the correspondence that has passed between East Lansing and Saigon in the past, she is a very capable gal and quite able to take care of herself.

As I expected she arrived on the afternoon plane on Friday and from then on it was really a time squeeze to accomplish all that needed to be done before she could register according to the schedule at 2:30 on Saturday.

She is currently living on the graduate floor of Hickory Hall (an old barracks type building and as far as I can see the only one of its type to house girls) in a single room. We did tell the woman in charge of assigning dormitory space that she was not a graduate but I don't think it quite connected with so many different things on her mind. It is actually the room originally assigned to one of our Indonesian participants and not the one the foreign student adviser's office had reserved for her (standard procedure evidently when a foreign student not on one of Indiana's programs is admitted).

After picking up the necessary papers from the Registrar and the Dean's office, Kim Sa had her schedule tentatively planned for the next years in this department. At some time during the morning while she was filling out innumerable forms, etc., it occurred to me that she might have difficulty when it came to the point where fee payment is required. However, Dean Dowling signed the necessary letter of explanation when we gave him a complete rundown of the circumstances (otherwise there was no way of knowing that these fees could be charged to the Vietnam Project at Michigan State) and also produced a note to the University Bookstore which enabled Kim Sa to open an account there.

Needless to say I was glad to see her check arrive yesterday and did my best to explain what I presumed it covered (20 days @ \$12. and 5 days @ \$8 minus the \$100. advance). I might also note in passing that they misspelled her name both on the check and on the envelope - it is Tran Thi Kim Sa rather than Than Tri Kim Sa.

I don't know what strings she pulled to finally get the permission from the government to leave but do know that they pulled the rug out from under her several times in the process. By the way there is another Vietnamese girl here who is on the "Audio-Visual" program and two men slated for the same program. They have even increased the number of their participants from 26 last year to 40 this year.

I hope that the dire predictions of Julie Heyman and myself concerning Kim Sa's motivation turn out to be unfounded and that she successfully completes her program of studies. In my earlier conversations with Miss Ruffsvold, head of Library Science, she suggested that it might be possible once Kim Sa has her B.A. for her to return briefly to Western Reserve (one semester or summer session) and qualify for her M.A. This seems like a very good suggestion if it is at all possible. She has most of the graduate credits that she needs. The evaluation of her credits here leaves her with some 72 hours to complete. They have required only English and the social science if she has successfully passed the French examination yesterday.

By the way just in case you do not have her telephone number she can be reached through the main switchboard for university dormitories (ED 2-0211) on extension 4825. All her classes are scheduled for the morning.

The trials and tribulations of the Indonesians in arranging their schedules were a big help to me in knowing what to do next for Kim Sa. Actually they were turned loose to do the complete job on their own as I am sure Kim Sa would also have been able to do if she had had more time.

Sincerely yours,

*Elsie Cunningham*

Elsie Cunningham

*Herons - Neasey*