

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY


VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM



TO: Ruben V. Austin, Coordinator

DATE: July 13, 1961

FROM: Guy H. Fox, Chief Advisor 

SUBJECT: Kim Sa

We are happy that Miss Kim Sa will be able to take some work beyond a bachelor's degree, toward her master's. Of course it would be desirable, in many ways, for her to stay in the U.S. after June, 1962, to obtain her master's degree. But, at the moment at least, I am not sure this will be possible; so it is probably well that you did not commit us past June, 1962.

We cannot consider Kim Sa's problem apart from 1) Miss Ti's case; and 2) an assurance that the Library will be adequately staffed. I believe you are familiar with Miss Ti's situation. Since the Fonction Publique does not respect her Philippines degree, she has a low rating and a salary considerably less than some of the Library clerks. Chapin's appraisal of her is right. She is a competent librarian and an excellent administrator. As an administrator she is undoubtedly better than Kim Sa.

In view of the fact that Miss Ti is underrated and underpaid, she does not have professional status, and she will quit the NIA (she has already sent in her resignation once but was persuaded to withdraw it) unless something is done for her. Both Julia Heyman and Frank Child urged that she be sent to the States for a more meaningful degree. As you know, I am in accord with this view and, in answer to my request, you have already sent a prospective list of universities at which she might receive a master's degree.

Ideally we should wait until Kim Sa returns from the States before sending Miss Ti there. However, Miss Ti had hoped to enroll in an American university in September; but because of the NIA's move to the new campus I insisted she be here to initiate the new Library and to get things on a routine basis before she leaves. Especially since our contract might end in June, 1962, we are anxious to get her away by January or February, 1962--depending on whether the university is on a semester or quarter basis. If she goes at that time we believe the Library could manage somehow until the return of Miss Kim Sa during summer 1962. During the six-months-or-so period while there will be no librarian, our four well-trained clerks could carry on in a somewhat passable manner. After June, 1962, even if there is an extension of the contract these clerks will undoubtedly be lost to the NIA, because at that time the NIA must assume

financial responsibility for all library personnel and there is no way, under existing civil service rules, that the NIA can pay even half the present salaries of the library clerks. Thus, at the moment it seems necessary that Kim Sa return in June at the time the NIA will have to depend largely on inexperienced help in the Library.

However, we realize it would be helpful both to her and the NIA Library for Kim Sa to have her master's degree and if it is possible to work out anything for her we shall do so. And it is not beyond the realm of possibility that we can make arrangements which will allow her to remain for her MA. For example, Mrs. Hieu, formerly the head librarian at the NIA and who received technical assistance from Mrs. Alubowicz, might be recalled to the Library. She left the Library in 1956 when she contracted t.b., and upon her release from the hospital she was placed in the Research Division. In spite of some slight probability that Kim Sa might remain in the States to obtain her MA degree, I believe it advisable that we not give her any false hope in the meanwhile. It is better, in my opinion, to set the summer of 1962 as her deadline and if there is any extension to let that be a pleasant surprise to her.

GHF:dw

JULY 25, 1961

TO GUY H. FOX
FROM RUBEN V. AUSTIN
SUBJECT TRAN THI KIM SA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON MISS KIM SA. IT IS MOST DESIRABLE
THAT MISS TI BE CONSIDERED FOR A PARTICIPANT TRAINING BILLET.
CERTAINLY, YOU WILL COMMUNICATE WITH US SO THAT PROPER ARRANGE-
MENTS CAN BE MADE.

RVA:JR

FEBRUARY 1, 1962

TO GUY H. FOX
FROM JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT MISS TRAN THI KIM SA

ATTACHED HERETO IS A COPY OF A LETTER JUST RECEIVED FROM KIM SA AT INDIANA. AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE IS AGAIN CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT SHE WILL BE ABLE TO FINISH HER MASTER'S IN LIBRARY SCIENCE. SINCE THE CONTRACT WILL PROBABLY BE ENDING IN JUNE, THIS MEANS THAT USAID MUST PICK UP THE COSTS AND ADMINISTRATION OF HER FINAL SEMESTER, PLUS SUMMER SCHOOL WORK, AND THAT THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES AND EXTENSION SHOULD BE OBTAINED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I HAVE WRITTEN TO DR. LOWELL AND STATED THAT I THOUGHT THE CHANCES ARE KIM SA WILL BE PERMITTED TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A MASTER'S, FOR I HAD A VERY FIRM IMPRESSION WHILE IN SAIGON THAT BOTH THONG AND DANG WERE ANXIOUS THAT THIS BE THE CASE.

JBH:JR
ATTACHMENT

FEBRUARY 1, 1962

MISS TRAN THI KIM SA
MEMORIAL HALL
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEAR MISS KIM SA:

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE B.A. IN GOVERNMENT!
I AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME THIS HURDLE AND MAY NOW BEGIN YOUR GRADUATE WORK IN LIBRARY SCIENCE AT INDIANA. I THINK THIS IS A WISE DECISION AND THAT IT WILL ENABLE YOU TO FINISH YOUR DEGREE IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME AND RETURN TO THE NIA, WHERE YOUR SERVICES ARE VERY MUCH IN DEMAND.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO DR. FOX IN SAIGON SO THAT HE MAY BRING THE MATTER OF YOUR EXTENSION TO THE ATTENTION OF RECTOR THONG AND/OR VICE RECTOR DANG. AT THIS POINT, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT, WHEN I WAS IN SAIGON LAST SEPTEMBER, RECTOR THONG AND VICE RECTOR DANG WERE BOTH MOST ANXIOUS THAT YOU BE PERMITTED TO COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE BEFORE RETURNING TO VIETNAM. I SEE NO REASON FOR A CHANGE OF HEART ON THIS MATTER AND THEREFORE ASSUME YOUR EXTENSION WILL COME THROUGH IN DUE COURSE. IN ANY CASE, PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO EXPEDITE THIS IN SAIGON.

I AM WRITING LETTERS TO YOUR FORMER UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR, PROFESSOR CHAPMAN, AND TO YOUR NEW ADVISOR, DR. LOWELL, AS YOU REQUESTED. I WILL EXPLAIN YOUR SITUATION TO DR. LOWELL AND TRUST SHE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM OF STUDY FOR YOU THAT WILL MEET YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS.

AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GOOD WORK--I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE DETAILS ON IT IN YOUR FORTHCOMING QUARTERLY REPORT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

JAMES B. HENDRY
ASSISTANT DEAN

JBH:JR

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

VIETNAM ADVISORY GROUP

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : James B. Hendry
FROM : Guy H. Fox *G.H.F.*
SUBJECT : Misses Ti and Kim-Sa

DATE : March 19, 1962

After changing her mind several times, Miss Ti has finally decided she would prefer to go to the U. S. in September to work on her Master's degree in library science. If it is too late for her to leave by September, she wants to go as soon as possible in 1963. Of course, she will have to go under USOM's auspices; and USOM has tentatively agreed to send her. In order for her to leave here in September, USOM would have to take immediate action; their processes are slow and the deadline for the PIO/Ps is next month.

I think it is only fair to give Miss Kim-Sa a definite, affirmative answer to her request to stay an additional full year to obtain her Master's degree. If you have not already informed her, will you please do so and have her make a request as quickly as possible to Rector Thong? I will support the request at this end.

cc: C.A. Joiner



MARCH 26, 1962

TO GUY H. FOX
FROM JAMES B. HENDRY
SUBJECT MISS KIM SA

WE HAVE ALREADY ASKED MISS KIM SA TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF HER ARRETE TO RECTOR THONG AND TO THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF PLAN. ANY PUSH THAT YOU MAY GIVE HER APPLICATION WITH THE RECTOR WILL PROBABLY BE VERY HELPFUL IN GETTING HER EXTENSION APPROVED.

JBH: YN