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VIETNAM PROJECT • OFFICE OF COORDINATOR

December 3, 1959

Mr. H. G. Pope
Executive Director
Public Administration Service
1313 East 59th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. Pope:

Mr. Huynh Kuan Tho, the Director General of Taxation, Government of Vietnam, has been in this country since August studying taxation administration at all levels of government. He is in this country as part of our participant program and will probably complete his tour sometime this January.

Mr. Tho is responsible directly to the Minister of Finance and is beginning to think in terms of broad tax reforms for his country. Dr. Milton G. Taylor, a member of the Economics Department at Michigan State University, has been working with Mr. Tho for seven months as a member of the Michigan State University Advisory Group in Saigon. Taylor has been making fairly intensive studies of various major taxes in Vietnam. Also, Mr. David C. Cole, who teaches Economics at Vanderbilt University and formerly a member of our staff in Vietnam, will be returning in February for a three month tour as a short-term staff member of our Group and to work with Mr. Tho in the tax area.

From several communications recently received from Saigon, it is apparent that the Government of Vietnam is approaching a point where it may decide to institute major tax reforms. Specifically, there are serious discussions underway concerning the feasibility of recruiting several non-academic tax specialists, persons with very extensive practical experience in major areas of tax administration. It is not clear at this time whether this will be on a consulting basis or direct hire by USOM. Michigan State will probably come in only indirectly. Mr. Tho has been to Puerto Rico recently and was very much interested in the reassessment program. He will be in Chicago from December 14-16 and would like very much to meet with you, as well as some of the "1313" tax people, some time during this period. I will call you on Monday and perhaps we can work out a specific appointment and then we can communicate this to Mr. Tho. I am enclosing a brief biographical sketch covering Mr. Tho's background and interests.

My best wishes to Mrs. Pope and former colleagues.

Kind regards,

Stanley T. Gabis
Acting Coordinator

STG/ap

cc: Cunningham ✓

December 22, 1959

Mr. Dixwel Pierce
Secretary
State Board of Equalization
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Pierce:

Mr. Huynh Kuan Tho, who is Director General of Taxation in Saigon, Vietnam, arrived in this country in August for six months of study and observation in the tax field. It has been suggested to Mr. Tho that he meet and discuss with members of the State Board of Equalization some of the taxation problems during his stay in Sacramento.

Mr. Tho will be in Sacramento from January 5th through the 8th. We would appreciate any arrangements that could be made for him to meet with the various individuals in the taxation department during his stay.

Enclosed, for your information, is a brief biographical sketch on Mr. Tho's background and interests.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley T. Gabis
Acting Coordinator

STG:rm

December 22, 1959

Mrs. Ruth Adams
Committee on Friendly Relations
Among Foreign Students
291 Geary Street
San Francisco 2, California

Dear Mrs. Adams:

Just before departing from the United States, Mr. Huynh Xuan Tho, Director General of Taxation in Saigon, is planning to spend two days in San Francisco. He will be leaving East Lansing on January 4th.

Mr. Tho has been in the United States since the latter part of August and is returning to Vietnam with every hope of being able to effect some measure of tax reform in his own country.

I recommended to Mr. Tho that he get in touch with you when he arrives in San Francisco. I hope you have enjoyed meeting the other Vietnamese as much as they have enjoyed both meeting you and the arrangements you have made for them to meet other people in California.

Please find enclosed a brief biographical sketch on Mr. Tho's background and interests. Since Mr. Tho's arrival he has visited Puerto Rico and Canada as well as Washington, New York, Madison, Minneapolis and Chicago. He will also have spent a week with the Department of Taxation in Sacramento.

Sincerely yours,

Elsie Cunningham
Participant Director

EMC:rm